# The Big Picture: What are Colleges Looking for? 
Common Admission Factors

## ACADEMICS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Grades/GPA</th>
<th>1. SAT or ACT</th>
<th>1. Extracurricular</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Courses</td>
<td>2. SAT Subject Tests, AP exams</td>
<td>2. Recommendations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Level of Difficulty</td>
<td>3. Not Required (Test-Score Optional)</td>
<td>3. Essays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Class Rank</td>
<td>4. TOEFL, IELTS, Pearson, PEAU, others</td>
<td>4. Interview / Campus Visit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Strategies for academics:

1. Take challenging courses, even during your Senior Year
2. Manage your Electives
3. Manage your Transcript
4. Obtain a copy of your transcript
5. Summer Enrichment Programs

## TESTS SCORES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. SAT or ACT</th>
<th>1. SAT – (Tests logic, reasoning abilities)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. SAT Subject Tests, AP exams</td>
<td>SAT Preparation – Outside reading, test taking strategies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Not Required (Test-Score Optional)</td>
<td>ACT – (Tests subject knowledge)</td>
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<td>4. TOEFL, IELTS, Pearson, PEAU, others</td>
<td>ACT Preparation – Strong academic track record</td>
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</table>

### Understanding the Options:

1. SAT – (Tests logic, reasoning abilities) 
   - SAT Preparation – Outside reading, test taking strategies
2. ACT – (Tests subject knowledge) 
   - ACT Preparation – Strong academic track record
3. Test-Score Optional – You have the choice of submitting or not submitting your scores
4. English proficiency tests

## THE REST

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>1. Extracurricular</th>
<th>1. Long-term commitment</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2. Recommendations</td>
<td>2. Depth vs. Breath</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Essays</td>
<td>3. Doesn’t have to be tied to HS</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Strategies for Extracurricular:

1. Ask a challenging teacher
2. Provide them with a “Brag Sheet”
3. Give ample time

### Strategies for Recommendations:

1. Summer vs. Fall
2. Proofread, Proofread
3. In Your Own Voice

### Strategies for Essays:

1. Required, Not Required, Highly Recommended
2. Appearance is important
3. Research and Ask good Q’s
4. Create a chart to compare

### Strategies for Interview / Campus Visit:

1. Required, Not Required, Highly Recommended
2. Appearance is important
3. Research and Ask good Q’s
4. Create a chart to compare

### Strategies for College Fair Engagement:

1. Goal, strengths, needs, critical gaps
2. Self-assessment tool
3. Develop Questions

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Keep in mind that it is all about: A Good Match

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Notes:

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