

Researching programs and schools

There are over 4,500 colleges and universities in the US! Choosing where to apply is an important task, one that will take several months of careful research. In doing so, you will want to consider factors such as the college's strength in your major, availability of scholarships and financial aid, location, support for international students, and how the profile of the incoming class compares with your own. Check out the following resources that will help you generate a list of colleges for you to consider:

www.collegeboard.org A search engine of ALL 2 and 4-year colleges in the U.S. You can input search criteria and it will create a list of colleges that match. This is also where you go to register for the SAT exam.

www.collegexpress.com/lists A website that offers lists of recommended colleges based on dozens of different criteria, from major to school environment, to college costs. These lists go way beyond the usual college rankings.

<http://www.aacc.nche.edu/pages/ccfinder.aspx> A community college finder, by state, by the American Association of Community Colleges.

www.fairtest.org Didn't do so well on the SAT or ACT? This page has a database of colleges that are test-optional for some or all students. Keep in mind that an SAT or ACT score will generally be required for scholarship eligibility, even if it is not required for admission.

General Admissions Requirements

While each college will have its own particular set of requirements, here is a list of requirements you will find at most schools. Most college deadlines are around January 1st with scholarship consideration, so you should plan on starting your admission process the summer before your 6th grade, when you take the ACT or SAT for the first time.

Online application. Many schools accept the Common Application (www.commonapp.org), while others have their own forms.

Personal essay/statement. Colleges require one or more essays that are personal in nature and have the aim of getting to know you better, beyond numbers like your GPA and test scores. The College Counseling Office has books with tips and examples, and other resources to help you write the essays.

SAT or ACT. Standardized admissions exams given about six days a year at specific test centers, taken by all U.S. citizens as well as international students (some schools do not require these exams for international student admission, but do require them for scholarship eligibility, so it is a good idea to take them and do well on them!) To register, go to www.collegeboard.org for the SAT, or www.actstudent.org for the ACT. We have preparation books in the College Counseling Office!



Studying in United States

TOEFL iBT or IELTS. A standardized English proficiency exam, given several times a month at specific test centers. The English test requirement may be waived by the college if you have a very high SAT or ACT verbal score. To register, go to www.ets.org/toefl or www.ielts.org. The College Counseling office has test preparation books.

2-3 letters of recommendation, from the college counselor and teachers. Choose teachers who really know you well and with whom you have a close relationship. The teacher will have to write a letter, and fill out a specific form that is provided by the college (you can download them from the website or provide the teacher's email so that they receive and can submit the form electronically).

Official transcripts, in English. You will need to request these from the College Counselor.

A C.V. or list of academic achievements and extracurricular involvement. Financial forms. Colleges may require that you submit bank statements or other proof of financial resources. This is required for the student visa process, and often for financial aid eligibility purposes.

General Application Timeline

May-June, 5th grade:

- Start researching options. Make a list of 10-20 options to start, and narrow from there.
- Take the SAT or ACT for the first time.

August-October, 6th grade:

- Narrow your college list to 5-7 colleges
- Take the SAT or ACT for the second time, if necessary
- Identify teachers for letters of recommendation. Ask them for letters and provide forms.
- Request transcripts from College Counselor
- Write first draft of essays

November-December, 6th grade:

- Gather financial aid forms
- Finalize personal essays
- Take SAT Subject Tests if required
- Take TOEFL or IELTS if required
- Submit application before winter vacation starts!

January-February, 6th grade:

- Check with colleges to be sure they have received your application
 - Request Mid-Year Report from College Counselor
 - Submit CSS Profile or other financial aid applications (unless due earlier)
- April-May, 6th grade—Receive admissions decisions and decide where to go!

June, 6th grade- Apply for your student visa

