

# Applying to Selective Colleges



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# Our Agenda Today:

- What is a selective or highly selective college?
- What makes admission to a selective college different?
- What are selective colleges looking for in different parts of the application?
- Q&A

# **Selective Colleges and Highly Selective Colleges**

A selective college is one where there are more qualified applicants than the college is able to admit.

Highly selective colleges may have a much lower acceptance rate. One definition is a college with an acceptance rate of 15% or less (0.02% of colleges in the U.S. meet this definition).

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# Holistic Admissions

Holistic admissions seeks to understand a student in full, not just their GPA and test scores. The goal is to evaluate a student's complete profile - academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, personal qualities, and life experiences - and to assess their potential to thrive at and contribute to the college.

# Academics

First and foremost, the admissions process is focused on academics:

- Academic Program (school profile)
- Grades (transcript)
- Test Scores (SAT or ACT)
- Who you are as a student (recommendations, essays)

Selective and highly selective colleges expect success in the most rigorous program available to you.

# Extracurricular Activities

How you spend your time is an indication of what is important to you.

Clubs, sports, performing and visual arts, work, hobbies, independent study, and family responsibilities all count.

Can demonstrate commitment, creativity, leadership.

Show the admissions committee how you engage with the world with other people.

# Additional Factors

- Character/community presence
- Unusual accomplishments/talents
- Institutional priorities
- Demonstrated interest

# Insider Advice

- Recommendations
- Essay
- Supplemental essays
- Portfolios/auditions
- Interviews
- Optional parts of an application

**Q & A**

**Thank You  
and Good  
Luck!**