

# College Admission Competition Categories

Colleges may consider several or all of the following factors in determining admission eligibility: pattern of high school coursework, grades in academic courses, test scores, college major, cumulative GPA, talents, leadership roles, community activities, evidence of exceptional motivation, letters of recommendation, athletic ability, and related career exploration.

Admission Competition Categories	Educational Opportunities in the United States	Mid-50% Range of ACT/SAT Scores	Recommended High School Academic Subjects
<p><b>Highly Competitive Colleges and Universities:</b> These schools typically examine all aspects of a potential student's application. Everyone who applies possesses the highest academic and personal qualifications.</p>	<p>Includes the 100 colleges and universities with the highest admission standards. Examples are Ivy League, some Big Ten, major independents (Duke, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Stanford, etc.), and premier liberal arts schools.</p>	<p><b>ACT:</b> 29-33</p> <p><b>SAT:</b> 1950-2170</p>	<p>4 years English 4 years Adv. Mathematics 3-4 years Laboratory Science 3-4 years Social Studies 3-4 years Foreign Language 1 year Fine Arts</p> <p>Strong grades in honors and A.P. coursework is desirable.</p>
<p><b>Competitive Colleges and Universities:</b> These schools attract good students. Many colleges fall loosely within this category. Admission criteria vary widely. Competition for specific academic programs within the university can be intense.</p>	<p>Includes Big Ten schools, most state university systems, most liberal arts colleges, and many conservatories and institutes.</p>	<p><b>ACT:</b> 22-28</p> <p><b>SAT:</b> 1500-1890</p>	<p>4 years English 3 years Adv. Mathematics 3-4 years Laboratory Science 3 years Social Studies 2-4 years Foreign Language 1 year Fine Arts</p>
<p><b>Colleges and Universities with Open Admission:</b> These schools have very liberal admission policies. They give every student a chance to try college-level work.</p>	<p>Some state universities are included, as are almost all community colleges.</p>	<p><b>ACT:</b> 15-22</p> <p><b>SAT:</b> 1070-1470</p>	<p>4 years English 3 years Mathematics 2-3 years Science 2-3 years Social Studies 2 years Foreign Language</p> <p>Vocational education or fine arts courses <b>may</b> be acceptable.</p>
<p><b>Specialized Colleges and Conservatories:</b> These schools are often oriented toward fine arts.</p>	<p>Includes the School of the Art Institute, Oberlin Conservatory of Music, etc.</p>	<p>Portfolios/auditions weighted more heavily than test scores.</p>	<p>Same as Competitive Colleges category with the addition of specialized courses in the fine arts.</p>
<p><b>Trade and Technical Schools:</b> These schools are most concerned with a student's career aptitude.</p>	<p>Includes thousands of independent vocational schools throughout the United States.</p>	<p>Not always required</p>	<p>Emphasis on English, science, mathematics and vocational courses (applied tech., art, business, family and consumer sciences).</p>