

Quick Guide

US Undergraduate Admission Requirements

Application and fees:

- Fees are US\$50 - \$90 each application. They can be waived with a letter from your school indicating financial hardship.
- Generally, application deadlines are:
 - Early Decision-Nov. 1
 - Regular Decision-Jan. 1
 - Financial Aid-Feb 15.
- Deadlines vary among universities. You will need to check deadlines for each college you are interested in.
- An important part of the application is: why are you choosing the college you are applying to?

Standardized Testing (PSAT, ACT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests):

- Tests must be taken by the deadlines set by universities' admissions offices
- Tests can be taken more than once and your best scores are used
- Most colleges and universities require SAT or ACT scores and selective colleges may require 2 or 3 SAT Subject tests (16 subjects including science, math, history, foreign language). Choose what you are strongest in.
- In some cases, you can take the ACT instead of SAT Subject tests.
- Some colleges are "test optional" and do not use the SAT or ACT for admissions purposes (<http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>). However, most do require them when considering scholarship applications.
- PSAT is a practice test for the SAT held in October each year. It is best taken during Year 10.
- If English is not your first language, the college you are applying to may ask you to sit for a TOEFL or IELTS test.

High School Achievements:

- Years 9-12 results are considered in the admissions process.
- The academic rigor of classes and ranking within your class are important.
- Other activities are very important as well, especially leadership, outstanding talent in a particular extracurricular field and community engagement.

High School Recommendations:

- Two letters from teachers who know you well (focus on teachers who know you as a person – not just those who gave you good grades).
- One from your high school careers advisor or whomever performs this role at your school.

Essay:

- Common Application and Coalition have essay prompts; universities may also set their own additional essays on a variety of topics.
- Keep essays short and interesting, ensure they are well-written with no spelling mistakes, and focus on the requested topic.
- Show who you are and what you are passionate about.
- Don't repeat information already in your application.