

Admission to Selective Colleges

Traditional Admissions Factors & What They Really Mean

- (1) Academic
 - a. Challenging courseload (honors and AP/IB classes)
 - b. Full courseload (4 years of English, math, science, history, foreign language)
 - c. Grades
 - d. Test scores (SAT/ACT and subject tests)
 - e. Awards and recognition

| <u>2008 Admission Info at Selective Colleges</u> | | |
|--|----------------|------------------------------|
| <u>School</u> | <u>Admit %</u> | <u>Interesting Facts</u> |
| Harvard | 7.1% | 3,300 valedictorians applied |
| Yale | 8.3% | Still has Early Action |
| Stanford | 9.5% | 24% Asian-American |
| MIT | 11.6% | 700 students waitlisted |
| UC Berkeley | 21% | Average GPA 4.18 |
| UCLA | 23% | Over 55,000 applicants |
| USC | 21% | 53% from California |

***REAL MEANING:* Can you do the work at this college?**

Do you have: curiosity, self-motivation, a desire for challenges, creativity, active participation in the classroom, and open-mindedness, as well as pure intellectual ability? Will you use this college's resources well, and do you bring something special or unique?

- (2) Extracurricular & Personal Qualities
 - a. Depth & Commitment (staying in activities for all four years)
 - b. Leadership (positions, active contributions)
 - c. Awards and recognition
 - d. Personal qualities – through essays, recommendations, and interview

***REAL MEANING:* Do you have a life outside of academics?**

How will you contribute to this college? Are you passionate about what you do and do you do it well? Do you take responsibility? Do you participate in your school and have positive energy? Do you care about others and your community? Will you use this college's resources well, and do you bring something special or unique?

Are you a likable and interesting person? Will you be a good roommate? Are you a person with integrity and character? Will you learn from others? Are you a good match for our school and our values?

- (3) Special Factors: recruited athlete, under-represented minority, first-generation college, legacy

Admissions Materials

| <i>Submitted by applicant</i> | <i>Submitted by others</i> |
|--|---|
| 1. Personal & family background | 1. Teacher recommendations (intellectual curiosity, initiative, creativity, character, respect from others) |
| 2. Test scores (SAT/ACT, subject tests) | 2. Counselor recommendation (rank, student in context) |
| 3. Extracurricular activities (9-12 th grade) | 3. School Report (summary description of high school) |
| 4. Short answer question(s) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Meaningful activity b. Why this college? c. Academic or major interests d. "Getting to know you" | 4. High school transcript |
| 5. Essay question(s) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Open-ended b. Creative/Thought-provoking | 5. Interview - on-campus or alumni |