

Chiang Mai International School



College Handbook

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***“Educational excellence in a caring
Christian community that respects
and celebrates diversity”***

[Link to CMIS School Profile](#)

Introduction and Purpose

We welcome our students and parents to the college application process at CMIS. The decision of which college/ university to attend upon graduating high school is one of the most important steps a young person will take in directing his or her educational future.

Objectives of the High School Counseling Center in the College/University Application Process:

- Working collaboratively with college/university admissions personnel to educate, counsel and advocate for CMIS students in the application process
- Helping our students set attainable goals for university admissions based on a balance between academics, extracurricular involvement, standardized test scores and university admissions criteria
- Working in partnership with CMIS families and community members to assist students with the identification of personal attributes and personal goals
- Helping develop and hone their responsibilities for making decisions and executing tasks in the college admissions process
- Nurturing a student-centered approach throughout the college application process to help our students become confident and engaged decision makers

What is the CMIS student required to do in the Application Process?

- Students must ensure all university choices for application meet with his/her GPA, course requirements, standardized test scores, essays, letters of recommendation, supplements and deadlines
- Students must be willing to follow all expectations of the HS Counseling Center for applications
- Students must be willing to work collaboratively with parents to ensure the college application process is successful

What is the role of parent/guardian in the College/University Application Process?

- Encourage your son/daughter to take ownership of the application process
- Help your son/daughter select 6 or more colleges/universities (Safety, Target, Reach) for his/her list
- Support your son/daughter's progress in meeting all deadlines in the application process

Overview: What Do Colleges/Universities Consider When Evaluating a Candidate's Application?

College/University Preparatory Courses & Performance: GPA and SAT

Starting in grade 9, a student's Grade Point Average will begin at the end of semester 1. All courses taken in high school will be averaged into one's GPA. We encourage Juniors and Seniors to work productively and consistently to earn the best cumulative GPA they are capable of achieving. The SAT is a standardized test, designed to test a student's readiness for college. Scores attained may also play an important part in the admissions process.

Extracurricular Achievements

Colleges/universities are extremely interested in the kind of person you are both in your community and beyond the classroom. They want to know what you have contributed to the arts, athletics, student life and more. Colleges want "Good Citizens". It is important that students build a range of experiences showing how they have truly challenged themselves and have grown. The key here is not to aim for quantity but rather – quality of experiences in extracurricular activities while maintaining the strongest academic performance possible.

Be a Leader/ Active Participant in Your School and/or Community

Consider initiating a club, a social project, an artistic performance, or run for student government. Universities are looking for young people who will continue on a pathway of leadership after high school. There are many leadership styles: some require the spotlight while others do not. Find a way you can develop your skills and interests in a leadership capacity that suits you. Remember, being smart is a big part of university admissions, but in a competitive university environment, it is equally important to show skills in other areas of student life.

Use Summer Holidays as Opportunities to Grow, Learn and Take-on New Experiences

Colleges/universities are interested in understanding "what kind of person you are." Summer activities are integral to this understanding. Consider taking pre-college summer programs, leadership programs, participating in college tours, sports programs, etc. Volunteer work and internships are also excellent opportunities for gaining new skills over the summer. Opportunities for summer experiences can be found by researching online, as well as through your HS Counselor. Remember, paid summer employment can be very important too. Create your portfolio/artistic supplement if you are applying to a university for visual, film, or performing arts – or other schools that may be receptive to such information. Artistic supplements can showcase your skills, interests and creativity. Regardless of what you do, be sure to document your summer activities each year of high school.

Researching Colleges/Universities

Students should select colleges/universities based on academics, clubs, facilities, and additional personal preferences. Students who choose selective universities must ensure they meet all admissions criteria.

**Representatives from colleges/universities around the world visit CMIS each school year providing the perfect opportunity to ask questions, complete research and introduce yourself. **

Do You Want a College or University?

Generally, universities offer graduate programs and colleges do not. Students who prefer a smaller learning environment may benefit from attending a college. Classes are discussion-based. However, if you want choices from a big list of courses, you may want a university.

Do You Have a Major in Mind? Or, are You Undecided?

Students select majors with a specific academic discipline focus. Programs typically require a specific series of courses that will be applied to the requirements of a university major. If you are unsure of your major, then you can indicate “undecided”.

Visiting Colleges: Do You Need to See the Campus?

A campus tour is one of the best ways to help students get a sense of the best fit campus. An excellent time to take university tours is the summer before your Senior year. If you are unable to visit a campus ‘in person’, most college/university websites provide virtual tours as well as have International Admissions staff, dedicated to helping international applicants. Brainstorm a list of relevant questions to ask on what is important to you. Have a look at these suggestions:

- What is the composition of the student body?
- What are your most notable clubs, teams, activities, etc.?
- Can you explain dining and housing options on campus?
- What programs of study is the school most well-known for?
- Does the campus have a fitness center?
- Does the campus have wireless Internet available?
- Climate/ culture/ urban or rural?
- Is the neighborhood safe?
- What percentage of students will graduate in 4 years? 5 years?
- How many students are in the average first year class?
- Does the university offer merit-based scholarships?

Financial Considerations:

With the cost of a university education increasing every year, it is very important to research financial aid options. Financial aid comes in 3 main ways:

1) Scholarships 2) Loans or 3) Work-Study. If applying to US schools, financial aid can be based on the degree of need and is typically available to American citizens and those with a green card. FAFSA, application for Federal Aid – is available online and updated January 1st of each year.

For details go to: www.fafsa.ed.gov

If you are an international student (non U.S. citizen), you can research options that are available with the International Education Financial Aid Center (IEFA.org). <http://www.iefaf.org/>

****Scholarships offered directly from colleges/universities, provide the most financial assistance, therefore it is very important students take this into consideration when exploring their options.****

Some Helpful Links:

- www.collegeboard.com: a comprehensive site for SATs, college planning, college research (Big Futures), careers, and more
- <http://www.act.org/content/act/en.html>; ACT, standardized test, alternative to SAT
- <https://www.britishcouncil.or.th/en/exam/ielts>: IELTS, standardized test of English language, alternative to TOEFL
- <http://arborbridge.com/>: professional test preparation resources
- www.princetonreview.com: a college planning tool
- www.petersons.com/: a comprehensive college planning tool
- [Education USA link](#): accurate, comprehensive, and current information on how to apply to U.S. institutions

Grade 11: A Strategic Year for College/University Preparation

Self-Assessment:

Take time to begin appraising yourself.

1. Why do you want an education?
 2. Why are you going to college?
 3. What career options seem interesting to you?
 4. What academic subjects are you most interested in?
 5. What are your major activities and interests?
 6. How motivated are you?
 7. How have your experiences been meaningful to you?
 8. Are you using your potential and capacities to the fullest?
 9. How well do you respond to setbacks?
 10. How are you unique?
-
- If you have not done so already, this is the year to start **RESEARCHING** potential schools and programs!
 - Choose the most challenging and sustainable program in which you are capable of achieving the best grades possible.
 - Write a succinct resume that categorizes your education, extracurricular activities, employment, and awards for every year of high school.
 - Build strong relationships with teachers in subjects that align with your college/university major or goals. These teachers will be the authority on which to recommend your skills and attest to your potential as a university candidate.
 - Study hard for standardized tests. Take an SAT Prep course before you take the SATs in January, May or June in the second semester of your Junior year.
 - Participate in a balanced extracurricular program and commit to excellence in attendance at CMIS.
 - Take advantage of College/University visits to school campus; ask questions, research. If you can, take the time to visit college/university campuses in person.
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- **By the end of Junior year try to have a list of which colleges you hope to apply to and which programs you may be interested in pursuing. The more you know, the better prepared you will be as a Senior and the less pressure you will feel during the application process!**

Junior Year Timeline For College Applications

<i>October</i>	Take a SAT Prep Course/ take the PSATs in October
<i>November</i>	Prepare for the SAT OR SAT with Essay this year (take it in October, December, January, May or June on the CMIS campus -- ensure you register early and prepare diligently all year long)
<i>December</i>	Work diligently in your grade 11 classes (the second semester grades in your Junior year are among the most important during high school)
<i>January</i>	JANUARY SAT OR SAT with Essay: all Juniors (optional); earn highest GPA possible in CMIS courses
<i>February</i> <i>March</i>	Use tools on Overgrad and College Board (if planning to study in the US) to research schools and programs. Make an appointment with HS Counselor to discuss future plans, ask questions
<i>April</i>	Students should make summer plans for a job, study, internship, pre-college program or community service to strengthen college applications
<i>May</i>	<p>MAY/JUNE SATs on the CMIS campus (SAT or SAT with Essay or SAT Subject Test): all Juniors; non-U.S. citizens should take the TOEFL or IELTS this summer if they have not already</p> <p>MAY/JUNE SAT OR SAT with Essay: especially recommended for those considering early action/decision applications in Senior year. Earn highest GPA possible in CMIS courses</p>

Grade 12: A Strategic Year for College Preparation

- Academic performance is the most important factor in tandem with the rigor of the program. CMIS Seniors are encouraged to take a challenging and sustainable course load in Grade 12 that aligns with university goals and will fulfill all CMIS graduation requirements.
- Demonstrate well-rounded participation in “student life”.
- Create a standardized test schedule to meet all college deadlines: Register for every standardized test that you need for the universities you have selected (SAT or SAT with Essay or SAT Subject Test); we offer tests in October, December, January, May and June; it is the student’s responsibility to register for tests and send all test scores to universities.
- Take advantage of the time, information and support offered during Senior Seminar class during Semester 1. This is a required credit and provides invaluable time for students to prepare for post-secondary studies.
- Continue investigating colleges/universities for your list and work with your parents/guardians, HS Counselor and Senior Seminar teachers to make sure you have the right combination of Reach, Target and Safety universities selected.
- International students who apply to the US will require the TOEFL Test. (Students with US citizenship or who have Lawful Permanent Residence/Green Card, are not classified as international applicants even if their home is outside of the United States).

Senior Year Timeline For College/University Applications

August/September
Planning:
*What Every
Senior Should
Know & Do*

- Credit Check. Make absolutely certain you will have completed all courses needed to fulfill CMIS Graduation Requirements by June
- Understand admissions criteria for SAT or SAT with Essay or SAT Subject Test
- Begin finalizing your Post-Secondary Schools List of 6 to 8 colleges/universities based on the Reach-Target-Safety formula
- Understand the GPA of admitted Freshmen to all the colleges/universities on your list
- Understand the admission standards, degree of selectivity for every university on your College List
- Register online for an SAT
- Review all college application instructions/establish a table for the deadlines you will have to meet
- Revise your Personal/College Essay. Complete the [Student Information Sheet](#) as assigned by HS Counselor
- Request letters of recommendation from a teacher(s)/community member(s) (Common Application requires 2 letters)
- Transcripts are to be requested through the counselor's office. A [Transcript Request form](#) is to be filled out by students and then signed by the counselor. If applying through Common Application, transcripts are uploaded directly by the HS Counselor

October
Planning: *What
Every Senior
Should Know &
Do*

- Review all college application instructions/establish a timetable for the deadlines you will have to meet
- Revise your College Essay; get feedback on your rough draft
- Return completed Student Information Sheet to counselor
- Student follows-up with all teachers to ensure Letters of Recommendation have been sent/uploaded online/or received by counselor
- Student follows-up to ensure all supplements from teachers have been sent/uploaded online/or are in your student file with your counselor
- If applying **Early Decision or Early Action everything must be prepared (applications, supplements, etc.)**

<p><u>November</u> <u>Planning:</u> <i>What Every Senior Should Know & Do</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be aware of your deadline dates ● Understand Early Decision and Early Action deadlines ● Continue studying, preparing and working on SAT or SAT with Essay or SAT Subject Test in October or November (Dec. if you need it) ● Review all college application instructions/establish a list for the deadlines you will have to meet ● Revise/complete your Personal Essay ● Return completed Student Information Sheet to counselor if you have not already done so ● Student follows-up with all teachers to ensure Letters of Recommendation have been sent/uploaded online/or received by counselor ● Student follows-up to ensure all <u>supplements</u> from teachers have been sent/uploaded online/or are in your student file with your counselor ● If applying Early Decision or Early Action everything must be prepared and submitted (applications, supplements, etc.)
<p><u>December</u> <u>Planning:</u> <i>What Every Senior Should Know & Do</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be aware of your deadline dates ● Continue studying, preparing and working on SAT or SAT with Essay or SAT Subject Test on Dec. if you need it ● Complete all online applications and pay fees online/establish a plan for the deadlines you will have to meet ● Be prepared to reply promptly for any requests for additional information from your university ● Inform your counselor of any acceptances
<p><u>January</u> <u>Planning:</u> <i>What Every Senior Should Know & Do</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be aware of your deadline dates ● Continue studying: keep up a good standard of work at CMIS ● Be prepared to reply promptly for any requests for additional information from your university ● Ensure your counselor has sent the online Common Application Mid-year Report to your university, or if you have applied directly to universities, request transcripts be sent demonstrating grades earned at the end of S1 ● Inform your counselor of any acceptances
<p><u>February to June</u> <u>Planning:</u> <i>What Every Senior Should Know & Do</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Be prepared to reply promptly for any requests for additional information from your university ● Ensure your counselor has sent the online Common Application Final Report, or request final transcripts be sent directly to colleges/universities in June ● Send deposit to one college only

- Inform counselor of acceptances
- Inform post-secondary schools in a timely manner (adhering to their deadlines), of which offer of admittance you will accept and which offers you will decline

Standardized Testing

College/universities assess students heavily against the rigor of one's high school program and GPA each year. However, standardized test scores are important because they allow colleges to compare student abilities nationally.

While CMIS's curriculum helps to prepare students for tests, it may be worthwhile to supplement preparation with a SAT Prep course and purchase SAT resources (SAT Prep Books and SAT Subject Test books; www.amazon.com has an excellent selection). We recommend all students create an SAT timeline to ensure all scores will reach universities by deadline. If you want a list of colleges that do not require standardized tests you can review them at: <http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>.

Additional Standardized Testing Information

All CMIS Sophomores and Juniors will take the PSATs at CMIS to prepare for the actual SAT test. All students will receive the Official PSAT Score Report Plus which is a useful document that identifies strengths and weaknesses. Students can use this report to target their preparation. Students may also use their PSAT codes to research and plan for college, research careers and colleges using My College QuickStart (<https://quickstart.collegeboard.org/posweb/login.jsp>)

SATs Sign-Ups at CMIS:

On SAT Test dates, you can take either the SAT or SAT with Essay or SAT Subject Test (students are responsible for knowing what SAT Subject Tests universities require; you are permitted to take up to 3 SAT Subject Tests in one day & they are 60 minutes in length) Students are responsible for researching university deadlines and ensuring SAT scores can reach these institutions by their application deadline in their Senior Year (the big deadline for US universities is Dec. 31st/Jan 1st). Students must sign-up for the SATs to meet all university deadlines and requirements.

Register online: <http://sat.collegeboard.org/register>

To register you will need the following CMIS codes:

CEEB CODE: 69212

Test Center Code: 52790

To register for the TOEFL Test: <http://www.ets.org/toefl>

Considering Post Secondary Education Outside U.S.?

This list is not comprehensive, but a good starting place for researching/applying to schools outside US.

United Kingdom

- Go to www.ucas.com to create an account
- Ask the counselor for the CMIS ‘buzzword’ before you create your account. The buzzword will connect your application to CMIS so the counselor can track your application
- If you are planning to apply for medicine, dentistry, or veterinary science-- the deadline is usually October 15th (always double check deadline dates as they may change from year to year)
- You may choose to submit your application to 5 universities
- HS Counselor may help you with recommendation letter(s) and predicted grades
- <http://www.educationuk.org/global/>

Thailand

- http://studyinthailand.org/study_abroad_thailand_university/study-abroad-guide-thailand.html

Europe/ Netherlands

- <https://www.studyineurope.eu/>
- <https://www.nesothailand.org/>
- <https://www.studyinholland.nl/scholarships/highlighted-scholarships/netherlands-fellowship-programmes>

Canada

- <http://www.universitystudy.ca/plan-for-university/applying-to-university-in-canada/>
- <https://www.ouac.on.ca/> (Ontario Universities’ Application Centre, OUAC)

Australia/ New Zealand

- <http://www.studyinaustralia.gov.au/>
- <http://www.education-newzealand.org/>

Korea/Japan/ China/ Singapore

- <http://www.studyinkorea.go.kr/en/main.do>
- <http://www.studyjapan.go.jp/en/>

- <http://www.cucas.edu.cn/>
- <https://www.moe.gov.sg/admissions/international-students/general-info>

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