



## Holistic Admission Criteria

Everything in the applicant's file, down to email correspondences with the admissions office, is taken together.

Admissions officers are trained to look for coexistence and synergy to tie elements together into a coherent and nuanced picture of who you, the applicant, are. The result? You transform from just another sheet of paper into a real human being.

For an admissions officer who has under 10 minutes to review your file, it helps them easily tell your story to an admissions committee to advocate for you.

**The more selective a college is, the more they will look for these criteria:**

Ability to be academically successful at their school	To find evidence of character and contribution on campus	Communicate What, Why and Where
Strong GPA	Extracurricular Activities	Communicate college major and career plan
Strength of curriculum	Essays	"Why Us" and "Why Major" Supplemental Essays
ACT or SAT score	Letters of Recommendation	Other forms of demonstrated interest



**Pathways toward fulfilling these:**

Honors and AP in areas of interest/strength	Through ECs and essays, demonstrate any of the following:  Grit/Drive/Determination Intellectual Curiosity Initiative/Self-Advocacy Leadership/Collaboration Empathy/Social Consciousness Enthusiasm/Positivity Contribution	Begin early to identify strengths and interests and how they tie to careers.  Consider the educational path to pursue that career. This can be specific or general. Tie in your academics and extracurricular activities.
Ideally A's with some B's. Less selective schools will		Through supplemental essays,

<p>accept lower grades.</p> <p>Consistency or improvement with grades.</p> <p>Intentionality with core subjects (ie. if you're strength is STEM, taking strong math and science throughout HS).</p>	<p>ECs should demonstrate areas of interest/passion through opportunities taken or created.</p> <p>Your personal statement will provide information not found elsewhere on the application and should highlight your character traits.</p>	<p>make a strong case why you want to attend and why their school has the major you want.</p> <p>A large percentage of students change their major and almost all adults change their career one or more times in their lives.</p> <p>No one will hold you to the plan you make in high school.</p> <p>But colleges do like to see some consideration of this in the application.</p>
<p>Consistency with electives (ie. taking Debate all the way through HS).</p>	<p>Your letters of recommendation should corroborate the character traits you demonstrate through your application.</p>	<p>Some schools track demonstrated interest to include attending presentations, getting on email list and clicking on emails, responding to inquiries from the school</p>

A chart (from each school's Common Data Set) including the level of importance of each admission factor to a college can be found on CustomCollegePlan. Click on the school, then Stats and scroll down to Admissions Considerations.

---

It is important to remember that each college has its own institutional priorities that drive their recruitment, and certain characteristics they seek in applicants that help shape a diverse class or fill a need. These are out of our control so we control what we can and know that there are many schools that will provide an excellent college experience.