



College Application & Decision Making

High Level Overview

Meet the Presenters



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Overview



- **How do I start?**
 - School selection
- **What aspects of the application matter?**
 - Key Elements of Application
- **What happens after I submit my application?**
- **What should I do now?**


School Selection



<p>Safety</p>	<p>Where do your academic and extracurricular achievements exceed?</p> <p>These should still be schools that you would be happy to attend!</p>	
<p>Target</p>	<p>Where do your academic and extracurricular achievements fall within range?</p>	
<p>Dream</p>	<p>If getting in wasn't an issue, where would you apply?</p>	



School Selection: Composite Ranking Report



AGA KHAN EDUCATION BOARD USA


2021 COLLEGE COMPOSITE RANKING

Attention High School Students

USE THE REPORT TO:

- Understand how rankings can be used to guide your college choices
- Identify colleges that allow you to develop the optimal mix of reach, match and safety options
- Find tools to start the college research process
- Get answers to the most common questions

Learn more at tinyurl.com/2021CollegeRanking



School Selection: Composite Ranking Report



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- The Aga Khan Education Board for USA has developed the College Composite Ranking report featuring the leading 300 public and private national universities, liberal arts colleges and other institutions of higher learning.
 - This report aims to suggest college options that you may not have considered and, overall, assist you in building a broad selection of choices for your college education. Many common questions you might have about choosing a college are also answered in the report.



Considerations: Common Data Set

C7 Relative importance of each of the following academic and nonacademic factors in first-time, first-year, degree-seeking (freshman) admission decisions.

C7		Very Important	Important	Considered	Not Considered
	Academic				
C7	Rigor of secondary school record	X			
C7	Class rank			X	
C7	Academic GPA	X			
C7	Standardized test scores		X		
C7	Application Essay		X		
C7	Recommendation(s)	X			
	Nonacademic				
C7	Interview			X	
C7	Extracurricular activities	X			
C7	Talent/ability	X			
C7	Character/personal qualities	X			
C7	First generation			X	
C7	Alumni/ae relation			X	
C7	Geographical residence			X	
C7	State residency			X	
C7	Religious affiliation/commitment				X
C7	Racial/ethnic status			X	
C7	Volunteer work		X		
C7	Work experience			X	
C7	Level of applicant's interest				X

School Selection



- Create a spreadsheet of every school you want to apply to with all relevant deadlines.
 - Early Decision (ED) plans are binding. A student who is accepted as an ED applicant must attend college.
 - Early action plans are non binding. Students receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit.
- Order your schools by deadline and importance to you
 - This way, you'll be sure to work on the most pressing applications earlier in the season, when you'll likely have more time to write and refine.



Key Elements of Application

Extracurriculars



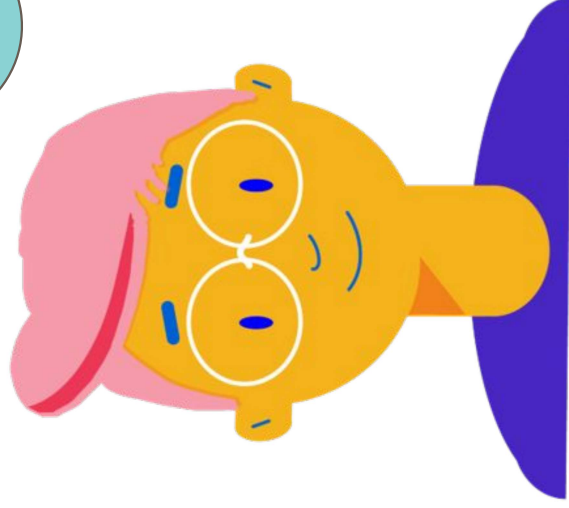
College admissions counselors talk a lot about diversity, but contrary to popular belief, elite universities are not looking for a class full of well-rounded applicants but a **well-rounded class of diverse and unique applicants.**

Extracurriculars



What impact did you have?

What problems did you solve?



What did you learn?



Tracking Extracurriculars

- Activities List Template - <http://bit.ly/aCtivities>

Extracurricular List Template ☆ All changes saved in Drive

File Edit View Insert Format Data Tools Add-ons Help

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A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
Type	Position/Leadership description and organization name, if applicable	Description (Accomplishments, Awards)	Participation Grade Levels	Hours spent per week	Weeks spent per year	Intended participation in college	
1	Use the drop down menu under 'Type' to appropriately categorize your involvement and understand what types of activities can be listed in this list. If you need more slots, copy and paste a row into the next row. Note that you will only be able to list 10 activities on the Common Application	List all achievements here, including organization development, awards and honors (150 characters -- use https://www.lettercount.com to be sure)	List which grades you were involved in this activity	Use an average here. There may be weeks when you were spending more hours than others, but determine an average based on weeks most involved and weeks least involved		Use the drop down menu to indicate whether or not you would be interested in participating in a similar activity while in college	
2	Type all positions held and organization name here						
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11							
12							
13							
14	Awards: List all the awards, recognitions and honors you have received below. If you have more than five, add rows. Note that the Common Application will only let you enter up to 5.						
15							
16							
17							

Extracurriculars ft. Passion Projects



- The key is focusing on self-directed projects.
- Learn a programming language through IXL, Udemy, Coursera, or EdX.
- Take an online course through Stanford online courses or Great Courses of the World.
- Become an entrepreneur by launching an online store through Etsy, Ebay, or other such sites.
- Start a blog about something that matters to you.
- Become an online tutor.



Test Scores

- Common App is for reporting your scores and CollegeBoard is for sending your scores.
- Many colleges will remain ‘test optional’ for the 2021-2022 cycle
- If you have the comfortability and ability to test, do so, especially if you’re not sure which schools you’ll be applying to. Check colleges’ admissions websites for their testing guidelines.
- Standardized test scores may be required for scholarships, transfers, and special programs
- **Implications for not taking a test** - other components of your application are weighted more heavily
 - Your test score can function as a “meaningful differentiator”

Personal Statement



TRUE OR FALSE:

My college essay has to be about
significant life challenges
that I have faced.

Thinking About Your Personal Statement



1. Essence Exercise

- What are 3 objects that carry meaning for you?

2. Values Exercise

- 5, 3, 1
-

Supplemental/Short Essays



- You **must** do research on the school and program that you are applying to, including talking to people who have attended the program, reading about courses and extracurriculars online, and paying attention to the **school's newspaper**.
- The more relevant your supplemental essays are to what is happening on campus, the stronger your application will be.

UC Personal Insight Questions



-
- Choose 4/8 questions with 350 words each
 - Questions focus on life experience, interests, ambitions and inspirations.
 - Think of uncommon connections even with common topics.
 - Focus on journey and values, not repeating what you already mentioned in your activities list.
 - Bring core values and **insight** into your course.
 - Focus on challenges, what you did about it and what you learned.
 - Review [supplemental examples](#)

Supplemental/Short Essays Examples

- What is the most significant challenge society faces today?
 - Ex: *Society lives off band-aids. We often put temporary solutions on ongoing problems to make temporary progress.*
- Why [major?]
 - If you don't know which major, think about 2-3 interests and how those interests came together.

How to Start Writing



Exercise #1: Take a blank sheet of paper and write down a list of everything you want colleges to know about you.

- *I love...*
- *I value..*
- *I enjoy challenges like (solving puzzles?) because...*
- *I look forward to time I spent on...*

Exercise #2: 21 facts about yourself & your identities

- Might be surprised by how some of these leads to topic ideas.



Post Application Submission

Interviews



- Interviewer:
 - Find out who is interviewing you and research them.
 - The interviewer may not even have a set of specific questions
 - Common Questions:
 - What current event has caught your attention?
 - o Connect to your interests.
 - o Where does your newsource come from? The Skimm, Morning Brew, etc.
 - What is a current issue that your generation faces?
 - o Think about your values beforehand and then make a connection..
 - Why [school?]
-

Interviews

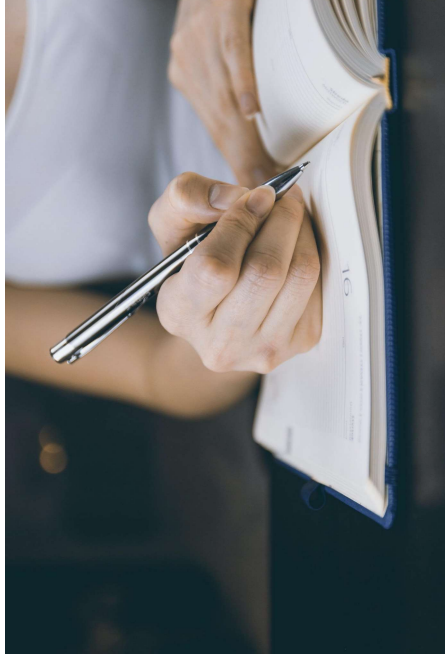


- Your role:
 - Attire: Respectful
 - You can strategically pivot the interview.
 - o Message box: 3 things you definitely want to talk about
 - “What are you interested in studying
 - o “I am not sure yet, but one thing I know is that I like to do work for a greater good. This semester, I fundraised for Alzheimer's by doing xyz.”
 - o “There is one more thing I wanted to share.”
 - Questions you can ask:
 - o Can you tell me about xx research opportunities?
-

Decisions: Waitlist



- Write to school expressing your continued interest, how you still hope to benefit and contribute
- Include any updates since application submissions
 - new honors, awards, accolades or
- Review reconsideration templates online as examples.



Decisions: Reaching Out



- Resources
 - Reach out to current students or alumni through Ismaili Students Network (ISN)
 - Call or Email the Financial Aid Office
 - Look at your financial aid award letter. You can write a financial aid appeal letter.
 - Thank them and reiterate your interest in the school, share your request and what have you been doing.
- Access [Apollo 12's scholarship list](#).

Other Tips



- Recommendation letter: Ask “would you be able to write me a strong recommendation letter?” Share your resume with your recommender.
- Assigning recommenders on Common App
 - Note: You have to assign each recommender to a college. They will not get your invite email to write a recommendation letter until you assign them to a college. If you’re using the same people for all colleges, you still need to select each and assign them to each college you’re applying to. See section 4 using this link.
- Ensure you are aware of how to request transcripts for schools by contacting your school’s guidance counselor.
- Reach out to your mentors *early* to support you in your process by requesting them to read your essays and offer feedback.



Additional Resources



ApplyTexas was created through a collaborative effort between the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the colleges and universities represented on the site. **The goal of the project is to offer a centralized means for both Texas and non-Texas students to apply to the many outstanding postsecondary institutions available in Texas.**

On ApplyTexas you can accomplish a multitude of tasks including:

- Apply for admission to any Texas public university, as well as to participating community and private colleges.
- Apply for undergraduate, international and graduate admission.
- Copy a submitted application to another institution.
- Submit your application essays online.
- Apply for scholarships from participating universities.
- Search for and view both general and university specific information.

Preview Sample Application Here:

https://www.applytexas.org/adappc/html/preview_21.html

Additional Resources / Information University of California Schools



Nine Campuses. One Application.

Applying to UC is a lot simpler than you'd think. That's because you can apply for as many campuses as you like — with just one application.

Apply Here:

<https://apply.universityofcalifornia.edu/my-application/login>

[Test Score Policy](#)

UC Schools:

- Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, UCLA, Merced, Riverside, San Diego, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz

Dates & deadlines

July 1

Winter/spring 2021 application opens for select campuses

August 1

Fall 2021 application opens

October 1

Financial aid: FAFSA and Cal Grant Verification Form opens for applicants to all terms

November 1-30

Submission period for the fall 2021 application



Additional Resources / Information

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Extracurricular List Template ☆ All changes saved in Drive

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Additional Resources / Information

- Khan Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org/college-admissions/applying-to-college>


The screenshot shows the Khan Academy interface for the 'Applying to college' course. At the top, there is a green header with the text '< College admissions' and 'Applying to college'. Below the header, a 'Lessons' section lists eight items: 'Introduction: Applying to college', 'College application process', 'Admissions essays', 'Letters of recommendation', 'Admissions interviews', 'Applying as a homeschooler', and 'Applying as a transfer student'. The 'Introduction: Applying to college' lesson is expanded, showing a 'Learn' section with three items: 'Sal Khan's story: Applying to college', 'Overview: Applying to college', and 'Timeline: Applying to college'. Below this, the 'College application process' section is also expanded, showing a 'Learn' section with two items: 'Deciding when to apply: Early vs regular decision' and 'Filling out the college application: Common application walkthrough'.



Additional Resources / Information

- CollegeVine Blog: <https://blog.collegevine.com>

CALL US (877) 789-8463



Applying to College

College Essays

Standardized Tests

Extracurricular Activities

Academics

ABOUT + WHO WE ARE

PREPARE + UNDERCLASSMEN

APPLY + FOR SENIORS


ESSAY REVIEW + SUBMIT YOUR ESSAY

BLOG + INSIGHTS

ZEN + RELAX

LEARN MORE + FREE CONSULTATION

Search ...



4 Helpful Tips To Prepare For Your College Admissions Video Interview

While many colleges still perform in-person interviews through alumni local to you, others have turned to video through Skype and other online video platforms. Video can be an especially good...

READ MORE

About CollegeVine


Our mission is to help students and their families confidently navigate high school and the college admissions process. We offer Mentorship, SAT Tutoring, and Application Guidance.

Join thousands of other students and families subscribed to our blog:

Email*

What year do you graduate high school?*

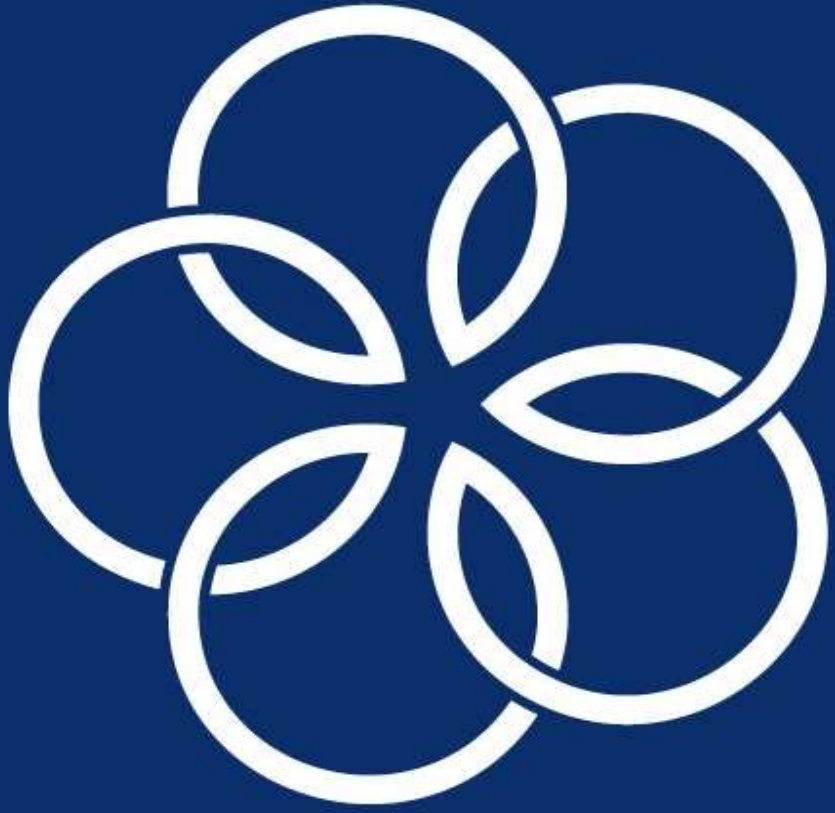
- Please Select -



How to Write a Personal Statement That Wows Colleges

Most of the college application process is fairly cut and dry. You'll submit information about your classes and grades, standardized test scores, and various other accomplishments and honors. On much...

READ MORE



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