

Planning to Apply to College? Here's Important News You'll Want to Know!

It pays to know what college admissions officers look for when deciding which applicants to accept into their colleges!

What you think is important may not be what colleges even consider! Your high school class rank, for example, is at the bottom of the list at most colleges. It's not even considered by BYU. Most universities rank these as most important:

- the difficulty of your high school classes
- your GPA, and
- performance on standardized tests like the ACT and SAT

Every college is different in what they use when considering college Freshman applicants. Usually the better the college, the tougher the standards. Here is the ranking of admissions factors used by Rutgers, Columbia and NY University, for instance:

1: grades in college prep courses

2: grades in all high school classes

3: strength of your high school curriculum (the difficulty of classes you've taken)

4: admission test scores: ACT, SAT

5: essay or writing sample

6: counselor recommendation

7: demonstrated interest by student

8: teacher recommendation

9: class rank

10: portfolio

11: extracurricular activities

12: interview

13: State exam scores (AIMS, AZ Merit)

14: work experience

Please see your guidance counselor to learn what the college of your choice is looking for, before you apply!