

# College Selection

Compare your profile with the requirements of colleges you are considering. Please remember that colleges only use “unweighted” GPA’s to determine eligibility. Colleges are commonly referred to as follows:

## MOST COMPETITIVE COLLEGES

Even superior students will encounter a great deal of competition for admission to colleges in this category. In general, these colleges require high school rank in the top 1% to 10% and grade averages of 93%+. Median freshman test scores at these colleges are generally between 1350 and 1600 on the SAT (math and verbal) and above 28 on the ACT. In addition, many of these colleges admit only a small percentage of those who apply, usually fewer than one-third.

## HIGHLY COMPETITIVE COLLEGES

Colleges in this group look for students with grade averages of 88%+ and accept most of their students from the top 10% to 15% of the high school class. Median freshman test scores at these colleges range from 1200 to 1350 on the SAT and from 26 to 27 on the ACT. These schools generally accept between one-third and one-half of their applicants.

## VERY COMPETITIVE COLLEGES

The colleges in this category admit students whose averages are no less than 85%+ and who rank in the top 15% to 25% of their graduating class. They report median freshman test scores in the 1100 to 1200 range on the SAT and from 23 to 25 on the ACT. The schools in this category generally accept between one-half and three-quarters of their applicants.

## COMPETITIVE COLLEGES

This category is a very broad one, covering colleges that generally have median freshman test scores between 950 and 1100 on the SAT and between 19 and 22 on the ACT. Some of these colleges require that students have high school averages of 85 or better, although others state a minimum of 80-85%. Generally, these colleges prefer students in the top 50% to 65% of the graduating class and accept between 75% and 85% of their applicants.

## ADVICE TO STUDENTS FROM STUDENTS

Dear Students,

Take initiative.

Your high school counselor is a great contact for getting helpful information, but you have to do some research.

Know your transcript. Improve your study habits and re-take your SAT.

The time you spend on college applications should be like a part-time job. The essays are important. Take the time to develop the essay that “gives you an edge.” Demonstrate that you’re creative and interesting. Do not come across as though you are perfect. Come across human.

Keep things organized. Keep a folder of all the things needed for a scholarship and college application. You will need the same information over and over again. Research and apply for scholarships.

Make lists and prioritize them. Keep a notebook of your notes. Plan wisely. Don’t procrastinate.

Visit many colleges. Get lost! Literally, you’ll see more than what you were shown on the tour. While you’re searching ask random people questions to learn even more. Make sure you visit the colleges you are interested in, otherwise, why apply?

Financial aid is out there. Everyone can find a way to afford college.

Talk with your parents, they want the best for you. They’ll ask lots of questions and they’ll force you to do some things, but it is really for the best.

Read and review this guide. Work with your counselor. Never give up the dream!

P.S. Don’t slack off during senior year.

## LESS COMPETITIVE COLLEGES

Included in this category are colleges with median freshman test scores below 950 on the SAT and below 19 on the ACT. These colleges admit students with averages below 75% and who rank in the top 65% of the graduating class. These colleges usually admit 85% or more of their applicants.

## NON-COMPETITIVE COLLEGES

The colleges in this category generally only require evidence of graduation from an accredited high school. Some require an entrance examination. Colleges are rated non-competitive if they admit all state residents, but have some requirements for non-residents.