

What are colleges looking for?

Colleges are selective and admit only students who have a good chance of being academically successful. As a measure of potential success, colleges look at courses in high school, SAT and/or ACT scores, rank-in-class, grade point average, application essay, activities and recommendations.

***Courses taken in high school:** Were they challenging, (Regents, Honors, AP)? Colleges like to see a consistency in academic achievement or an improvement in grades over one's high school career. The student's grade point average and selection of courses play a vital role in the admissions process. Students are encouraged to take a strong academic program during their entire four years of high school, including senior year.

***SAT and/or ACT Scores:** Test scores are important, however, nothing replaces a history of hard work and good grades. Each college will have their own guideline of what an acceptable SAT and/or ACT score range will be required for admission.

***Rank-in-class:** An official high school transcript is sent to colleges directly from the guidance office. It contains all of your courses and grades for three years as well as your three year average and three year or six semester rank-in-class.

***Recommendations:** A favorable teacher recommendation can support your application. Recommendations from a junior or senior teacher are usually preferred. Most colleges request one to two recommendations. Be sure to request your letters at least two weeks before the application deadline.

***Applicaton Essay:** This is your opportunity to show colleges you are more than just a number. It allows you to reveal your sense of humor, special talents, maturity and personality.

***Extra Curricular Activities:** Students are encouraged to participate in two or three activities for a number of consecutive years rather than m any activities in a short period of time. It is quality not quantity that counts!

***Interview:** Most colleges do not require and interview, but it is recommended for a student's first choice college. The student should be on time and prepared to ask questions.