

Relative importance of these factors in admissions decisions:

KEY  
 1 Very important  
 2 Important  
 3 Considered  
 4 Not considered

	EXTRACURRICULARS INTERVIEW	RECOMMENDATIONS	TALENT / ABILITY ESSAY	ALUMNI RELATION	MINORITY STATUS		
Amherst (Mass.)	4	1	1	1	2	3	
Bard (N.Y.)	3	1	1	1	3	3	
Barnard (N.Y.)	3	2	1	1	2	3	3
Bates (Maine)	1	1	1	1	1	3	3
Beloit (Wis.)	2	3	1	1	3	3	4
Bethel (Kan.)	3	4	3	3	3	3	4
Boston College (Mass.)	4	2	2	2	2	2	3
Boston U. (Mass.)	4	3	2	2	1	3	4
Bowdoin (Maine)	3	1	1	1	1	2	2
Brandeis (Mass.)	3	2	2	2	2	3	3
Brown (R.I.)	3	2	2	2	1	3	3
Bryn Mawr (Pa.)	3	2	1	1	3	4	4
Bucknell (Pa.)	3	2	1	3	1	3	2
Caltech (Calif.)	4	3	1	1	3	4	3
Carleton (Minn.)	3	2	2	2	2	3	2
Carnegie Mellon (Pa.)	3	2	2	3	2	2	3
Case Western (Ohio)	2	1	2	2	1	2	2
Claremont McKenna (Calif.)	2	2	2	2	4	3	3
Colby (Maine)	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
Colgate (N.Y.)	4	2	1	2	2	3	3
Columbia (N.Y.)	3	2	1	1	2	3	3
Connecticut College	3	1	1	1	2	2	1
Cooper Union (N.Y.)	4	3	3	3	1	4	3
Cornell (N.Y.)	3	1	1	1	1	3	3
Dartmouth (N.H.)	3	1	1	1	2	3	3
Davidson (N.C.)	4	2	1	2	2	4	3
Duke (N.C.)	3	1	1	1	1	3	3
Emory (Ga.)	4	1	1	1	2	2	3
Franklin W. Olin							
Col. of Engineering (Mass.)	2	1	1	1	1	4	3
Georgetown (D.C.)	2	2	1	1	1	3	3
Georgia Tech.	4	2	4	2	2	4	4
Grinnell (Iowa)	2	1	1	1	1	3	2
Hamilton (N.Y.)	2	2	1	2	3	3	2
Hampshire (Mass.)	3	2	1	1	2	3	3
Harvard (Mass.)	2	1	2	1	1	3	3
Harvey Mudd (Calif.)	2	2	1	1	2	2	2
Haverford (Pa.)	3	2	1	2	3	3	3
Hendrix (Ariz.)	2	2	2	1	3	4	3
Hillsdale (Mich.)	2	2	2	2	3	3	4
Illinois Inst. of Tech.	3	3	2	2	4	3	4
Johns Hopkins (Md.)	3	2	1	1	2	3	3
Kalamazoo College (Mich.)	3	1	2	2	1	3	3
Kenyon (Ohio)	2	2	1	1	2	3	3
Knox (Ill.)	3	3	2	2	3	3	3
Lehigh (Pa.)	4	2	1	2	2	3	3

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Macalester (Minn.)	3	2	2	2	3	3	3
M.I.T. (Mass.)	2	2	2	3	2	3	3
Middlebury (Vt.)	4	1	2	2	1	3	2
Mt. Holyoke (Mass.)	2	2	1	1	2	3	3
New College of Fla.	3	3	2	1	3	3	4
N.M. Inst. of Mining & Tech.	3	3	4	4	3	4	4
N.Y.U.	4	2	2	2	2	3	3
Northwestern (Ill.)	3	2	2	1	2	3	3
Notre Dame (Ind.)	4	1	1	1	1	3	3
Oberlin (Ohio)	3	2	2	2	2	1	3
Pomona (Calif.)	1	1	1	1	1	3	3
Princeton (N.J.)	3	1	1	1	1	3	3
Reed (Ore.)	2	3	2	1	3	3	3
Rensselaer Poly. (N.Y.)	4	2	3	3	3	3	3
Rice (Texas)	3	1	1	1	1	3	3
Rose-Hulman Inst. of Tech. (Ind.)	3	3	2	4	3	3	2
Sarah Lawrence (N.Y.)	3	2	1	1	2	3	3
Scripps (Calif.)	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Smith (Mass.)	2	2	1	2	2	3	3
St. John's College (Md.)	1	3	2	1	3	3	3
St. John's College (N.M.)	1	3	2	1	3	3	3
St. Olaf (Minn.)	3	2	2	1	2	3	3
Stanford (Calif.)	4	2	1	1	2	3	3
Stevens Inst. of Tech. (N.J.)	1	2	1	1	2	3	4
Swarthmore (Pa.)	3	2	1	1	3	3	3
Trinity (Conn.)	2	2	2	2	2	3	2
Tufts (Mass.)	3	2	2	2	2	3	3
Thomas Aquinas (Calif.)	3	3	1	1	3	4	4
Tulane (La.)	4	3	2	2	3	3	4
U.S. Air Force Acad. (Colo.)	1	1	3	1	1	3	3
U.S. Naval Acad. (Md.)	1	1	1	1	2	3	3
U. of Calif., Berkeley	4	2	4	1	2	4	4
U.C.L.A.	4	2	4	1	1	4	4
U. of Calif., San Diego	4	2	4	1	1	4	4
U. of Chicago	3	2	1	1	1	3	3
U. of Illinois, Urbana	3	2	3	1	2	3	3
U. of Maryland, College Park	4	3	2	2	2	3	3
U. of Michigan, Ann Arbor	4	3	2	2	2	3	2
U. of Missouri, Kansas City	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
U. of N.C., Chapel Hill	4	1	1	1	1	2	2
U. of Pennsylvania	3	2	1	1	3	3	3
U. of Richmond (Va.)	4	3	3	2	2	3	3
U. of Rochester (N.Y.)	1	3	2	2	2	3	2
U. of Southern Calif.	3	2	1	1	2	3	3
U. of Virginia	4	2	1	2	2	1	3
U. of Wisconsin, Madison	3	3	2	3	2	3	3
Vanderbilt (Tenn.)	4	1	1	1	1	3	3
Vassar (N.Y.)	4	3	2	2	3	3	3
Wake Forest (N.C.)	4	2	2	2	2	2	2
Washington & Lee (Va.)	4	1	2	3	3	3	3
Washington U., St. Louis	3	1	1	1	1	3	3
Webb Institute (N.Y.)	1	3	2	4	3	4	3
Wellesley (Mass.)	3	2	1	1	3	3	3
Wesleyan (Conn.)	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Wheaton (Ill.)	3	3	1	1	2	2	2
Whitman (Wash.)	3	2	2	1	2	3	2
William & Mary (Va.)	4	3	3	2	3	3	3
William Jewell (Mo.)	2	2	2	2	2	3	3
Williams (Mass.)	4	2	1	1	2	3	3
Worcester Poly. (Mass.)	3	3	1	2	3	3	3
Yale (Conn.)	3	1	1	1	1	3	3

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DATA

Admissions Sine Qua Non

On what basis do admissions committees anoint the chosen? The question has preoccupied generations of applicants. "There is no magic formula," says Gila Reinstein, a Yale spokeswoman. "It's just not an exact thing." Nonetheless, the College Board's annual survey of colleges and universities does ask them to rank admissions criteria. No surprise: high school academic record is consistently rated "very important," as are standardized test scores (Harvard contends they're only "important"). But what about all that other stuff? Institutions below admit the country's best students: 25 percent of their freshman classes, fall 2004, scored 700 or more on the math or verbal SAT and placed in the top 10 percent of their high school graduating classes. But academics alone won't get you in. Here's what else matters.