

# 9 Tips to Increase College Admission Chances.

The college application and admissions process can be complicated, confusing, and stressful. Fortunately, there are several effective things you can do during the process to boost your chances of admission.



## 1. Focus on Academics

Throughout all four years of high school, make earning good grades a top priority. You should also choose to take as many challenging courses as you can handle, such as college prep, Advanced Placement (AP), honors, and International Baccalaureate (IB) courses.



## 2. Prep for and Take the SAT/ACT

Prepare for standardized tests prior to your junior year by enrolling in prep courses, hiring a tutor, working through study guides, and taking practice tests. Once you're ready, take both the SAT and the ACT. Colleges generally accept either test, and you may do better on one test than the other.



## 3. Apply to the Right Colleges

The most assured way to have more college options is to apply to the right schools in the first place. Work with your high school counselor to apply to schools where you meet all the necessary criteria for admission — these are your match schools.



## 4. Apply Early

You don't necessarily need to apply early action or early decision, but it's a good practice to submit your application well before the deadline. This helps you stand out from the crowd. If you do apply early decision, apply to a match school and not a reach school, as it increases your chances of getting in early.



## 5. Demonstrate Interest

Colleges want to improve the percentage of admitted students who enroll, and one way they do this is by looking at demonstrated interest. You can indicate interest by visiting the campus, going on a campus tour, and scheduling an optional interview.



## 6. Spend Time Developing Your College Essays

College essays offer one of the best opportunities to sell yourself and convey who you are outside of grades and tests. Spend sufficient time developing a unique essay that stands out from the rest of the crowd. Reflect, write, edit, and rewrite. Get feedback on your essays from your teachers and other trusted peers.



## 7. Ask for Great Letters of Recommendation

Ask school counselors and teachers who know you well for recommendations at least one month in advance of college application deadlines. If they say yes, provide them with a list of achievements they can reference in the letter.



## 8. Manage Your Online Reputation

Admissions officers are increasingly checking out applicants' social media accounts to learn about them and to look for red flags. Make sure your Facebook, Twitter, and/or LinkedIn accounts are free of inappropriate content. Also, Google yourself to ensure there's nothing floating around on the internet that would make you look bad.



## 9. Seek Out Good Advice and Assistance

The college application process can be confusing and complicated. Make sure to get ongoing assistance from people familiar with the process, such as counselors and teachers. You can also ask parents, friends, older siblings, or relatives questions related to college applications.

