

## HOW COLLEGES SELECT STUDENTS

### 1. **QUALITY OF PROGRAM: A Challenging College Prep Schedule**

English	4 years
Mathematics	3-4 years
Science (Lab)	3 years
Social Studies	3 years (KS requires 3 ½ years)
Language	2-3 years

NOTE: In addition to the subject area requirements, the level of courses taken is also VERY important.

### 2. **GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA): Grades Are Important**

- Most admissions decisions will be based on 7 semesters of high school course work, all of 9<sup>th</sup> grade through the first semester of 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Cumulative or Overall Grade Point Average includes grades in all courses taken.
- Solid subject GPA is the calculation of a GPA based on academic courses only.
- Some colleges may use their own system to recalculate a GPA for admissions purposes.
- Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) courses may be given extra weight by some colleges.

### 3. **RANK IN CLASS:** Class rank is based on grade point average.

### 4. **COLLEGE EXTRANCE EXAMINATIONS**

#### ➤ **SAT Reasoning**

Three hour and forty-five minute examination which measures ability to communicate and to reason with words and abstract concepts. Used as a predictor of college academic success. Three major test sections: Writing (including an essay), Critical Reading and Math.

#### ➤ **SAT SUBJECT TESTS**

One hour exams in specific academic subject areas. Three exams usually taken at one sitting. Strongly recommended or required by the “most selective” colleges. The University of California system – UCLA, Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Riverside, Santa Barbara, Santa Cruz, San Diego – all require SAT Subject tests.

#### ➤ **AMERICAN COLLEGE TEST (ACT)**

Three hour test which measures skills in four areas – English, Reading, Science and Math. The ACT has an optional writing section which adds 30 minutes to the overall test. ACT is the preferred test for some Midwest and Southwestern colleges as well as BYU-Provo and BYU-Hawai’i.

### 5. **INTENDED MAJOR**

Certain majors like Engineering, Architecture, Nursing, Computer Science, and Business may be more competitive and have higher admission requirements. Visual and Performing Arts majors may require an audition or portfolio as a part of the admissions process.

### 6. **PERSONAL ESSAY AND PRESENTATION OF APPLICATION** – How do you look on paper?

### 7. **EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** – What have you showed a commitment to?

### 8. **UNUSUAL TALENTS AND ABILITIES** – What have you excelled in and showed passion for?

### 9. **TEACHER/COUNSELOR RECOMMENDATIONS** – What do others have to say about you?

### 10. **OTHER CONSIDERATIONS:** High school’s reputation, number of students applying, ethnic background, geography, alumni parent, date of application, etc.