

What Kind of Student Are You?

Grades and Test Scores	High	1.	2.	Low
	Low	3.	4.	High

Standout Factor

Directions

Make your mark on the chart where you think you fit based on your grades and Standout Factor. Your Standout Factor could be a number of things, and it may help you get into college. Standout students have something that separates them from the pack. Many high school students play soccer and are on the yearbook staff. Fewer high school students have a Standout Factor activity like starting and running a business or charity. Your Standout Factor may be who you are. For example, there are fewer male nursing students and female engineering students than their counterparts.

If you are in...

Box 1: Many college doors will be open to you based solely on your grades and test scores. Smaller schools and state schools may have college scholarships designed for students like you. However, if you want to attend a competitive college you will need to find a way to stand out. There are thousands of high schools in this country, and each one has a top-ranked student. Many more thousands of students take AP classes and make mostly A's. What makes you different?

Box 2: You've got the grades and the X-factor that may make you attractive to the most competitive colleges. However, the competition can be fierce. Re-examine your interests and activities and see if they really separate you from the pack. You will also be an attractive student to state colleges and less competitive institutions. Competitive schools might accept you, but state schools might pay your way.

Box 3. Many colleges, even small state schools, have minimum GPA and test score requirements. If your grades trend upward toward the end of high school you might convince a school that your GPA is permanently on the rise. Taking a test-prep class or retaking the SAT and ACT may improve your scores. You may also consider attending a 2-year community college before attending a 4-year school. Community colleges will allow you to save money, earn credit and re-start your academic history. When you apply as a transfer student, colleges will be more interested in your recent grades rather than your high school GPA. If your grades and test scores remain low, try to increase your Standout Factor. If it's high enough you might catch a college's attention.

Box 4: There's good news and bad news here. The good news is you've got something that will make you attractive or stand out to colleges. The cold hard reality, though, is many colleges have minimum GPA and test score requirements. So even if you have a unique activity and bring diversity to campus you might not be able to get in. If you show that you finished high school with an upward-trending GPA, a college might bend their requirements. Others will not be so understanding. Seek extra help from teachers. Take a test prep class. If you increase your GPA enough, you could be in line for competitive schools or scholarship offers. Some colleges may be willing to bend entrance requirements for the right student.

Cappex Fit: Fact: Eighty-eight percent of high school students go to college in their home state. Go to Cappex.com now to get your college matches. It's free and easy!

Your Standout Factor

There are more than 26,000 high schools in the U.S. That means there are 26,000 football captains, 26,000 prom queens, 26,000 valedictorians and 26,000 yearbook editors. If you want to stand out to a college, you've got to really stand out.

There is a very powerful way to differentiate you from other students applying to college: Ensure you have a Standout Factor.

The most interesting Standout Factors are activities that are typically dominated by adults, or noteworthy tasks that no other high school student does. Either way, a Standout Factor will help you differentiate yourself from other applicants.

How to Increase Your Standout Factor

It's simple. Do something that you wouldn't normally consider doing. Standout Factors are not run-of-the-mill activities. Participating on your school's yearbook staff, for example, is not a Standout Factor. In fact, every high school yearbook in the world is put together by students. It is a good learning experience, but it won't necessarily help you stand out.

Managing the yearbook staff will help you stand out because it shows leadership. But, taking it further will give you a true Standout Factor. Running a yearbook business will easily help you stand out from the crowd. Few high school students, if any, own yearbook production companies.

How to tell if it's a Standout Factor

If other high school students do it, it's not a Standout Factor. Also, the more positive impact your standout activity has on others, the better.

Examples of Standout Factors

- Restore antique instruments • Make a movie and convince real theaters to show it
- Hike the Appalachian Trail • Invent something • Discover and name a new comet • Start a real business with customers and employees • Volunteer at a medical clinic in an African village
- Help run a political campaign • Breed a special strain of flower and name it after your grandmother • Become a TV or radio personality

My Current Activities:

Possible Standout Factors:

Cappex fit Pact: Go for big impact with your Standout Factor. Make an impact in your community. Go to Cappex.com now to get your college matches. It's free and easy!