



DEXTER SOUTHFIELD

Understanding Likely, Possible, and Reach Schools

How do I know which colleges and universities I will get accepted into?

Begin by looking for schools where your academic credentials (SAT/ACT scores and grades) fall within the school's range for the average freshman.

We recommend you apply to two or three schools that fall into the following three categories:

1. Likely: A “likely” school is where your academic credentials fall above the school's range for the average freshman. You can be reasonably certain that you will be admitted to your likely school and be happy attending. (Students who need financial aid, should also have an affordable likely school on the list).

2. Possible: A “possible” school is where your academic credentials fall well within or exceed the school's range for the average freshman.

3. Reach: A “reach” school is where your academic credentials fall below the school's range for the average freshman. Reach schools are long shots, but they are possible.

(Far Reach: A “far reach” school is where your academic credentials fall far below the school's range for the average freshman. Far reach schools are super long-shots, and not recommended.)

Research and visit schools in the three categories. Review each college's admissions requirements carefully, particularly course requirements.

Based on your observations and research, create an initial list of schools to which you would like to apply.

Note: *Having a special interest (such as athletics, music, legacy, or development) can alter which category a college falls into for individual students. Financial need can also change the category, as very few schools are need-blind.*