

WHAT FACTORS DO COLLEGES CONSIDER IN MAKING THEIR DECISIONS?

1. *School Records*

- GPA
- What courses have you taken? How demanding?
- Standing in class: How do you look relative to your peers?

2. *Test Scores*

- SAT Reasoning and/or ACT Plus Writing
- SAT Subject Tests
- Advanced Placement Tests

3. *Outside Interests and Activities, Special Talents*

- How have you spent your time outside of class, apart from studying?
- How have you spent your summers?
- Athletic Involvement
- Long-term interests and affiliations
- Community service
- Leadership roles

4. *Essay or Personal Statement*

- This is your opportunity to speak for yourself.
- Explain what is not clear from your records and scores.
- Be original.
- Be honest.
- Be noticed.

5. *Recommendations*

- Choose people who know you well (non-relatives)
- Request references early
- Encourage anecdotal references

6. *Interview*

- Make appointment early.
- Gather as much information as you can about the interview process.
- Learn as much as you can about the school, and be prepared with questions.

UC Minimum vs. Competitive:

- 1. GPA**
- 2. Test Scores**
- 3. Total # of Semesters of Solid (A thru G) Core Classes**
- 4. Total # of Honors and AP Classes & Exams**
- 5. Strength of Senior Year Program**