

# COLLEGE ADMISSION GUIDELINES

Below you will find course guidelines for what college and university admissions offices typically look for in an applicant. For a specific college or university that you will be applying to, be sure to check their admissions webpage so you know what their guidelines are.

It is always a good idea to exceed the number of courses that an admissions office recommends because they often put the minimum amount to be admitted. What's more, going above the college or university's guidelines makes one a more competitive applicant for admissions. For example, if a college recommends a student take three years of math, it would be more advantageous for the student to take a fourth year of math.

Do not be deterred by the ACT scores and class rank listed below. Students who have gotten lower ACT scores or do not fall within the given class rank have still been admitted to such institutions. **Most colleges and universities do an amazing job in considering the whole student – not just GPA and test scores.**

## Extremely Selective

(Carleton, Stanford, Harvard, Purdue) - CIS/Advanced coursework required.

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of social studies
- 4 years of math
- 4 years of science
- 4-5 years of a foreign language if available
- Some require 1 year of fine arts
- Leadership in co-curricular activities
- Volunteer/community service
- ACT composite of 30 or higher
- Class rank in top 10%

## Very Selective

(St. Olaf, UW-Madison, U of MN, UW-LaCrosse) - CIS classes recommended

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of social studies
- 4 years of math
- 4 years of science
- 4-5 years of a foreign language if available
- some require 1 year of fine arts
- ACT composite of 26 or higher
- Class rank in top 20%

## Moderately Selective

(State Universities, St. Thomas, Hamline, UW-River Falls)

- 4 years of English
- 4 years of social studies
- 3-4 years of math
- 3-4 years of science
- 2 years of foreign language may be required
- ACT composite of 21 or higher
- Class rank in top 50%

## Open Enrollment

(Community Colleges, Technical Colleges)

- No specific class rank or GPA required
- Testing provided by the college
- No specific high school course work is required; however, students should take the most difficult classes that they can be successful with to prepare them for college-level courses.