

The
Princeton
Review®

Finding Your Best Fit Colleges

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FINDING YOUR BEST FIT COLLEGES

1

What Are
Best Fit
Colleges?

2

What
Colleges
Want

3

Getting Into
Your Best
Fit Colleges

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**WHAT ARE
BEST FIT COLLEGES?**



There are over 4,000
colleges in America

*You will identify your
best-fit colleges*

DREAM SCHOOLS

From The Princeton Review's [College Hopes & Worries Survey](#)

STUDENTS' TOP 10

1. Harvard College

2. MIT

3. Princeton University

4. Princeton University

5. New York University

6. Yale University

7. Columbia University

8. University of Pennsylvania

9. University of Texas-Austin

10. University of Michigan

PARENTS' TOP 10

1. MIT

2. Princeton University

3. Stanford University

4. Harvard College

5. Yale University

6. Columbia University

7. University of Michigan

8. Duke University

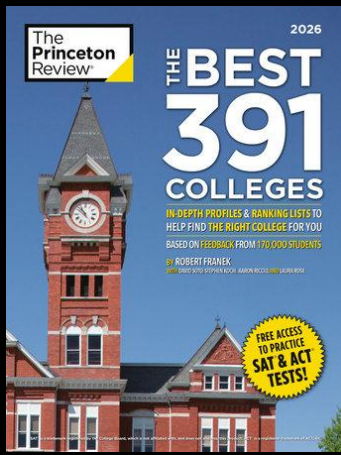
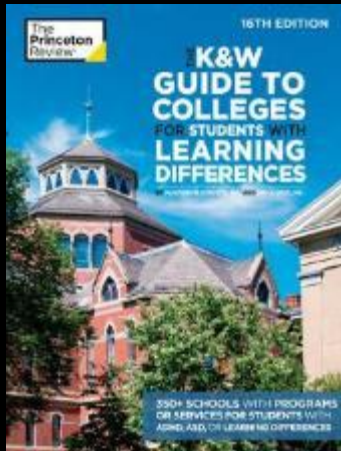
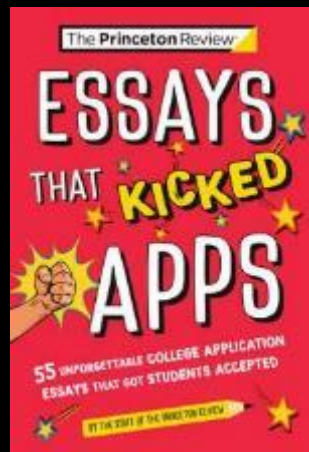
9. New York University

10. Brown University

THE BEST-FIT SCHOOLS FOR YOU...

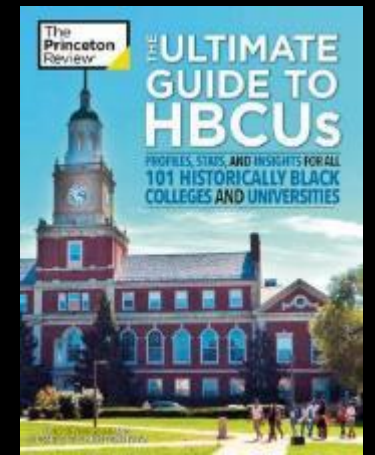
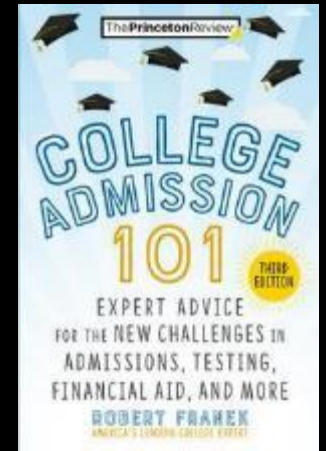
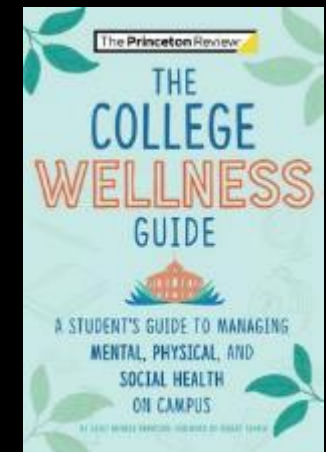
- ❑ Academic Fit
- ❑ Social Fit
- ❑ Financial Fit
- ❑ Career Services Fit





To find your best-fit schools, go right to the source:

Current College Students



Why Students Choose a School



- Prestige
- Programs
- Location
- School Spirit
- Friends
- Family

Identifying Your Best-Fit Schools

✓ Visit Campuses

✓ Attend College Fairs

✓ Go to Information Sessions

✓ Interview

✓ Call Admissions Offices



College admissions is **not** a
game of winners and losers.

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WHAT
COLLEGES
WANT



WHAT IS A SELECTIVE COLLEGE?

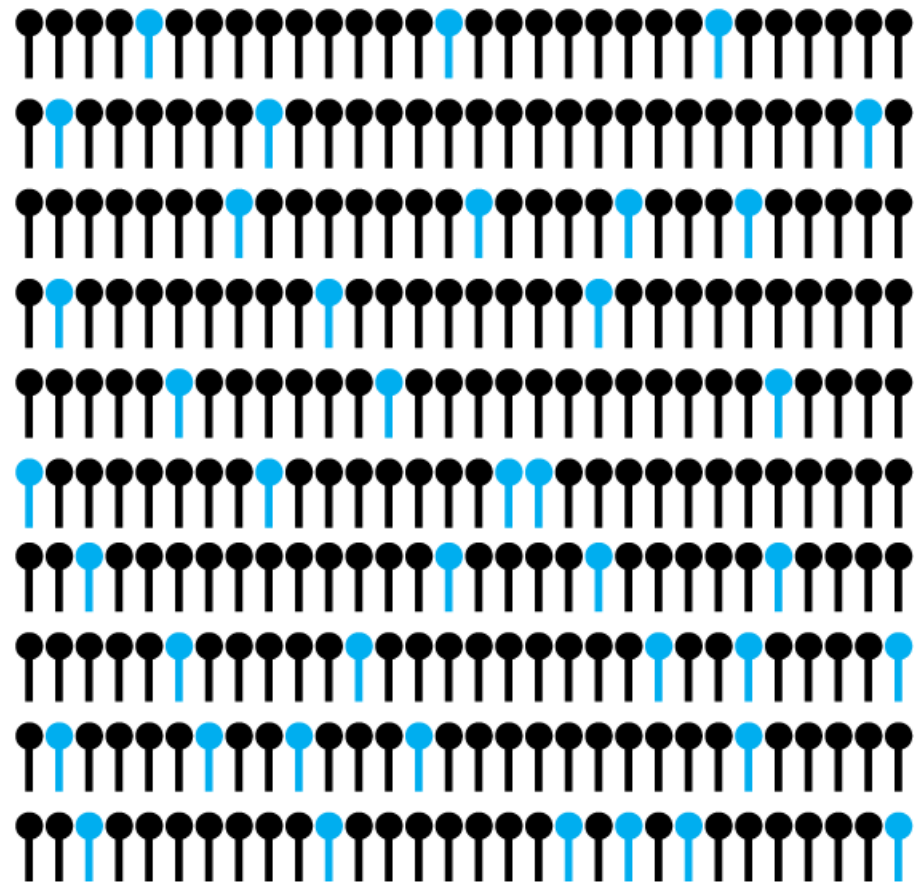
A selective college is one that **admits** some students and **rejects** others

Very, Highly, and Most Selective are subjective and undefined

Why are colleges selective?

Each school has a
select number of spots
for admission.

Admissions officers are
looking for the “right”
students, not necessarily
the conventionally
“top” students.



YOUR HIGH SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT

9 th Grade	Sem 1	Sem 2
English	X	X
Math	X	X
Social Studies	X	X
Science	X	X
Foreign Language	X	X
Elective	X	X
Elective	X	X

11 th Grade	Sem 1	Sem 2
English	X	X
Math	X	X
Social Studies	X	X
Science	X	X
Foreign Language	X	X
Elective	X	X
Elective	X	X

OVERALL	
Unweighted GPA	X.XX
Weighted GPA	X.XX
Class Rank	XX

10 th Grade	Sem 1	Sem 2
English	X	X
Math	X	X
Social Studies	X	X
Science	X	X
Foreign Language	X	X
Elective	X	X
Elective	X	X

12 th Grade	Sem 1	Sem 2
English	X	X
Math	X	X
Social Studies	X	X
Science	X	X
Foreign Language	X	X
Elective	X	X
Elective	X	X

Your Standardized Test Scores

SAT SCORE	INTERNAL RATING	ACT SCORE
1500-1600	10	34-36
1400-1500	9	31-33
1300-1400	8	28-30
1200-1300	7	25-27
1100-1200	6	22-24
1000-1100	5	19-21
900-1000	4	16-18
800-900	3	13-15
700-800	2	11-12
<700	1	<10



In *The Best 391 Colleges*

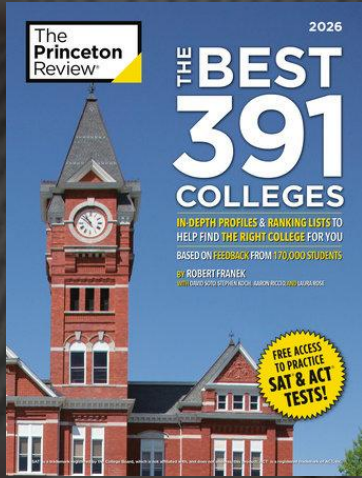
Test required, Test Free, Test-Optional?

Test Required
About 10% of Schools

Test Optional
About 83% of Schools

Test Flexible
About 1% of Schools

Test Free
About 6% of Schools



In *The Best 391 Colleges*

Test required, Test Free, Test-Optional?

94% of all schools will want to see high test scores if students submit them

97% of those schools with <25% acceptance rate want to see high scores

WHAT ELSE DO APPLICATION READERS SEE?

- ❑ Application Essays
- ❑ Letters of Recc
- ❑ Extracurriculars



A photograph of a university campus scene. In the foreground, a group of five students are sitting on a green lawn, engaged in conversation. To their left is a garden bed with various flowers, including pink and white daisies. In the background, a large, multi-story building with many windows is visible, surrounded by trees. The scene is bright and sunny.

**Every application reader asks
the same question about
every applicant:**

***Will you make our community
better by being here?***

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GETTING INTO YOUR BEST FIT COLLEGES

BUILDING YOUR APPLICATION LIST



- ONLY Best-Fit Schools
- Reach, Target, & Likely Schools
- Balance your list

Your College Application

INFORMATION

NUMBERS

SAT dates: August, October, November | ACT dates: September, October

YOUR SUBMISSIONS

PERSONAL STATEMENT AND ESSAYS



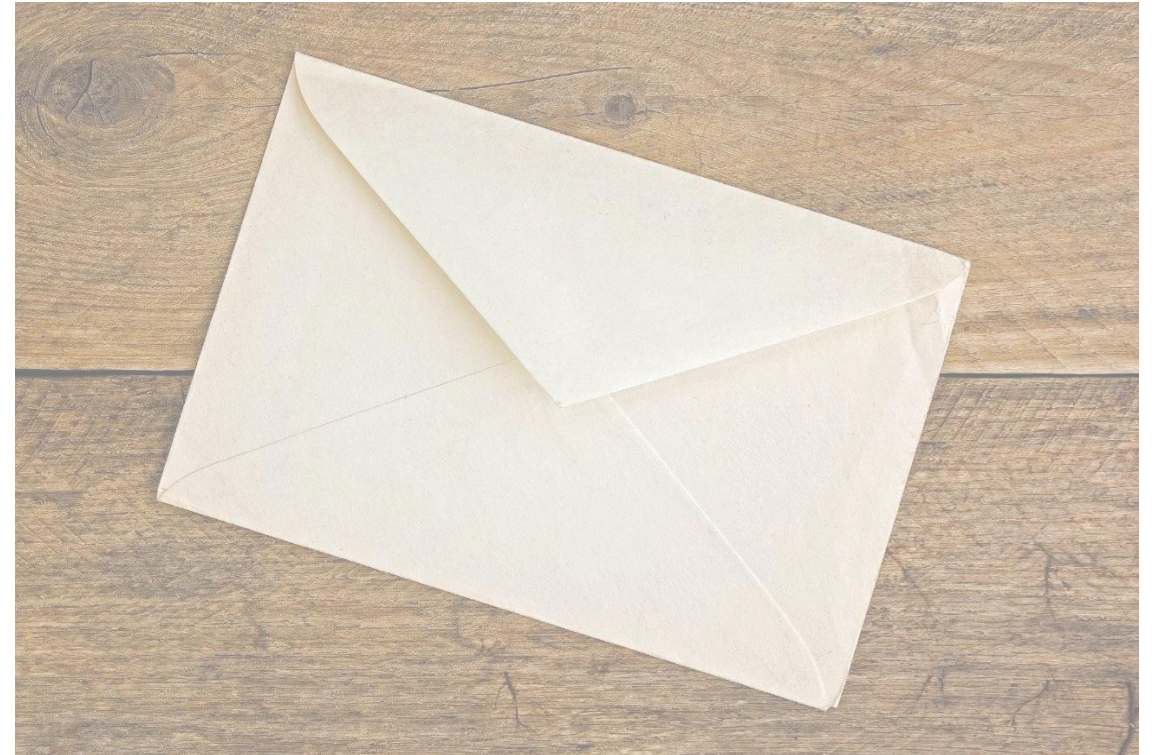
YOUR
APPLICATION ESSAY
SHOWS THE ADMISSION
COMMITTEE WHAT
MAKES YOU DIFFERENT
FROM OTHER
APPLICANTS

LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION

YOUR **RECOMMENDATIONS** SHOW
THE ADMISSION COMMITTEE WHO
YOU ARE IN THE **CLASSROOM**

ASK EARLY and PROVIDE
INFORMATION

THANK THEM FOR THEIR HELP!



EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



YOUR
ACTIVITY LIST
SHOWS THE ADMISSION
COMMITTEE HOW YOU
SPENT TIME
OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

APPLICATION DEADLINES

✓ Regular Decision

✓ Priority Deadline

✓ Early Action

✓ Early Decision

✓ Rolling Admissions

One last application deadline...

✓ Restrictive Early Action/Single Choice Early Action

Typically used at highly selective schools (including but not limited to Stanford, Harvard, Princeton, and Yale).

*It's not binding, like early decision, but does indicate to the school that it is the only **private** school to which the applicant is applying early decision/early action.*

A photograph of a library with tall, dark wooden bookshelves filled with books. A wooden ladder is leaning against the shelves on the left side. The background is dark, and the text is overlaid on the right side.

Dream colleges are
your best-fit schools.

*You can find them,
and you can
get into them.*



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Questions?

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