



HOW COLLEGES LOOK AT YOU: CONNECTING THE DOTS

This ranked list is based on a nationwide survey of independent educational consultants

Just as every college is different, so too are criteria and priorities in each college's admission process. In fact, one of the great advantages of our education consulting is our personal knowledge of these differences. We help students navigate the complexities of the college admissions process.

Go to

JRAEducationalConsulting.com

to learn how we can help you

1



A rigorous high school curriculum that challenges the student and includes AP, IB, AICE, and college-level courses.

2



High grades in core academic subjects. However, slightly lower grades in a **rigorous program** are preferred to all A's in less challenging coursework.

3



High scores on standardized tests (ACT, SAT). These should be consistent with high school performance.

4



A **well-written essay** that emphasizes a student's personal insights."

5



Passionate commitment to **a few meaningful activities**, inside or outside of school. Depth, rather than breadth, of involvement, is preferred.

7



Ability to pay. As college costs rise, some admission offices are increasingly favoring those students who can contribute to the school's bottom line.

6



Strong teacher and counselor recommendations that provide insightful, anecdotal references.

8



Leadership and initiative, inside or outside of school. Colleges seek students who make a real difference.

10



Intellectual curiosity exhibited through reading, research, and extracurricular pursuits.

9



Demographic and personal characteristics that contribute to a diverse and interesting student body.

11



Special talents that can contribute to campus life.

12



Student's character and values are seen as conducive to being a **good community member**.

13



Demonstrated interest and enthusiasm for the college (through campus visits, communication with admissions, etc.).



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