

The American School of Kuwait

The International Planning Guide for College & University Admissions

2008 - 2009

Test Center - 52935
CEEB Code - 683080



Think Critically

Act With Integrity

Strive For Excellence

FOREWORD TO PARENTS AND STUDENTS

Searching for the right college is a time-consuming and sometimes frustrating experience. By starting early much of the frustration can be eliminated. The World Wide Web has greatly enhanced this process and will make your job much easier.

This booklet is meant to help you in your search. The counselor is responsible for helping students and parents know the options and to be of as much assistance as possible. The search for appropriate colleges and the final decision is that of the student and his or her family.

There should be answers to many of your questions contained within this booklet. It will hopefully assist you in an organized process of college searching while keeping you aware of important deadlines.

Please feel free to call with any of your questions.

Thank you,

Mrs. Becky Ness
Director of Student Services

COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

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Calendar for College Planning

Freshmen Year

The most important thing for freshmen is to work hard on their studies. Remember a cumulative GPA includes the freshmen year.

This is a time to start thinking of career options and to start casually looking at college web sites or visiting campuses if you happen to be in America.

Don't feel that you have to have a career choice or a college in mind. Stay focused on developing good study habits and becoming an excellent student.

Sophomore Year

Being a diligent student is still your number one goal. Take more time looking at career options.

Choose classes that will help you reach the college and career choices that you are considering.

Concentrate on working on a strong vocabulary since a large portion of the SAT test is vocabulary based.

Junior Year

- ☑ Take the PSAT in October.
- ☑ Continue working on achieving your best possible academic record.
- ☑ Watch the announcements for college visits and talk to college representatives for college which you have an interest.
- ☑ Begin a resume of individual membership in school organizations, leadership positions held, noteworthy in and out of school achievements, and other pertinent information for use in the college application process.
- ☑ Register by mid-March for the May SAT.
- ☑ Take AP tests in May (if applicable).
- ☑ Start an active search for colleges.
- ☑ Start developing a broad list of college possibilities.
- ☑ Write to colleges requesting brochures and information.
- ☑ Plan any summer college visits if at all possible.

During the Summer Between

Junior and Senior Year

- ☑ Visit colleges if possible
- ☑ Refine your college list to select serious options (between six and eight colleges is a good choice number). Page 30
- ☑ Write for applications and financial aid forms.

Fall

- ☑ Begin gathering paperwork and working on applications.
- ☑ **BEWARE OF DEADLINES!!!** You are responsible to know the deadlines for the colleges for which you are applying.
- ☑ Sign-up online for TOEFL test.
- ☑ Register by early September for October SAT I. (If you scored well on the May test this may not be necessary.)
- ☑

SENIORS NEED TO CHECK WITH THE COLLEGE TO WHICH THEY ARE APPLYING TO INVESTIGATE WHAT, IF ANY, SAT II TESTS ARE REQUIRED!!!

Winter

- ☑ Check with the counseling office to make sure that mid-year reports were sent if your colleges require them.
- ☑ Verify that SAT and TOEFL scores have been sent.
- ☑ Remember you are still a student and your grades second semester do count. Colleges require a final transcript.
- ☑ Colleges in which you have been accepted should all be notified of your final decision.

Spring

- Receive notification of decisions on college applications.
- Reply by May 1st to accept a place at ONE college or university.
- The colleges in which you have been accepted should all be notified of your final decision.
- Take the May AP exams (if applicable).
- For the TOEFL register at www.toefl.org

The Mailing Process

- Apply on-line if possible
- Student must state when transcripts, recommendations, and other forms will be sent from the counseling office. It is important that this deadline is met.
- NO MATERIAL COMING FROM THE COUNSELING OFFICE WILL BE GIVEN TO A STUDENT. IT MUST BE SENT BY THE SCHOOL.**
- You must make an appointment and be present when the envelope is prepared to verify that necessary documentations is mailed.
- IT IS BEST IF ALL MATERIAL IS SENT AT THE SAME TIME**
- Take TOEFL no later than November register In September

Recommendations

- Teachers must have two-week notification.
- It is highly recommended that recommendations be confidential because colleges put less validity on non-confidential recommendations.
- Choose your references wisely. The selected teachers should know you and your work best.
- No student should need more than three references from teachers.
- Most college require a counseling recommendation and sometimes a Secondary School Report.

SAT Test Schedule

CEEB 683080

Test Center 52935

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Registration Deadline</u>
October 4	September 7
November 1	September 28
December 6	November 2
January 24	December 21
May 2	March 28
June 6	April 25

Note: Register on-line or mail your form.

ACT Test Schedule

October 25, 2008

December 13, 2008

April 4, 2009

Note: Register with Mrs. Ness

COLLEGE VOCABULARY

Academic Programs:

Your academic transcript is **the single most important piece of information to be reviewed by college admissions personnel.** Your transcript will be examined to see what courses you have taken and the grades you have earned. Colleges will be looking for an academically challenging course-load and solid grades. It is important that you take the most difficult classes that are appropriate for your ability. Choose classes that will fulfill the high school preparation requirements of the colleges you wish to attend and the academic area that you are considering.

Advanced Placement Program (AP):

The AP program is administered by the College Board and offers college-level courses and exams. These classes are to be taken by highly motivated students with excellent academic records.

Advanced Placement Exams:

In May students enrolled in AP classes take an AP exam in the specific AP classes attended. Scores range from 1(low) to 5(high). It is possible to obtain college credit for high scores in some colleges. It is important that you check the AP policies of the schools you are considering attending.

American College Testing Program (ACT):

This is a standardized admission test like the SAT. It measures students' ability in English, mathematics, reading, and natural sciences. Scores range from 0(low) to 36(high). Be sure and check the required entrance tests for the colleges you are seeking entrance.

Associate Degree:

This degree is awarded after successful completion of a two-year program usually offered at two-year community, junior, or technical colleges. Some four-year schools also offer associate degrees.

Bachelor's Degree:

This degree is earned after successfully completing an undergraduate college or university program. This degree typically takes four years to complete, although it can vary from three to five years.

Calendar Plan:

This indicates the number and length of academic terms per year, which can differ from school to school. Schools can have a calendar year of semesters (two terms), trimesters (three terms), or quarters (four terms).

Campus Visit:

It is highly recommended that students visit the campuses of colleges they are considering. Although this is difficult when living abroad, this is an important part of the college process and should be accomplished whenever possible.

Candidate's Reply Date:

May 1st is the National Candidate Reply Date, which allows students time to choose among offers of admission and financial aid. Students are able to wait to make a decision until they have heard from all the colleges they have applied to or until May 1, whichever comes first. Students must notify their college of choice that they plan to enroll and decline all other offers of admission by May 1.

Certification of Finances:

This form certifies the international student's ability to pay and must be supported by a parent's bank statement. Colleges generally require this of all foreign students.

Class Rank:

This number indicates the student's position in comparison to his classmates. The rank is determined by the student's grade point average (GPA). Colleges are interested in knowing how a student performs in relation to the other students in the same school. This is often as strong an indicator to college success as a GPA.

College Board (CEEB):

This is a nonprofit organization that includes colleges, schools, and educational organizations. The College Board provides tests and services to those individuals and institutions involved in the college admission process.

College-Level Examination Program (CLEP)

A program of examinations in undergraduate college courses that provides students with opportunities to demonstrate college-level achievement. They are used by colleges to award credit to entering freshmen.

College Preparatory Coursework:

These are high school courses which are considered necessary for entrance into colleges.

College Scholarship Service (CSS):

CSS is the financial aid division of The College Board. CSS process the financial PROFILE form. The information collected on the profile is required by many colleges and scholarship programs to assist them awarding private non-federal aid.

College Work Study (CWS):

This is a federally funded financial aid program that provides students with work during the academic year, either on-campus or with an off-campus approved employer. Students are typically paid minimum wage and the money earned helps students to pay their college expenses.

Common Application (CA):

Over 100 private colleges and universities accept this college application. A student can fill out one application, make copies, and send it to several places. This can save a great deal of time. These can be found in the Guidance Office.

Community/Junior College:

The majority of these are two-year public institutions. They award associate degrees at the completion of the prescribed programs. Students can transfer to four-year colleges if they decide to further their education.

Consortium: A group of colleges affiliated in some way. The extent of the association can vary widely. Some consortiums-usually located near one another-offer a range of joint programs that may include cross-registration, inter-library loan, residential exchanges, and coordinate social, cultural, and athletic events.

Cooperative Education Programs (Co-op):

This is a program where the students alternate between periods of full-time study and full-time employment in related work. It often takes a student involved in this program five years to gain a bachelor degree.

Credit Hours:

A unit of measurement usually awarded on the basis of one credit per hour of each class per week.

Deferred Admissions:

Some colleges allow admitted students to postpone or defer their entrance for up to one academic year in order to pursue other interests but not to enter another college or university program. Each college has its own policies and procedures for deferred admission but deferred entrance is usually granted for travel, work, volunteer service, or special study opportunities not offered by the college (overseas language or cultural studies, for example).

Deposit:

When students are accepted at a college they are requested to submit a deposit to hold their space in the freshman class. Deposits do not need to be submitted until the student has received admission decisions from all the schools he or she has applied to or until May 1, the National Candidate's Reply Date whichever comes first.

Early Action (EA):

Under this admissions plan, a student applies to his or her first choice school usually between November 1-15 and students are typically notified of a decision by mid-December. This is a non-binding admissions plan and students have until May to accept or decline the offer of admission.

Early Decision (ED):

Under this admissions plan, students apply to their first-choice school usually between November 1-15 and are typically notified of a decision by mid-December. This is a binding admissions plan, if you apply ED you are agreeing by contract to enter the college if admitted. A student may apply ED to only **ONE** college. Once accepted to the ED school, the student must withdraw all other regular applications for admission.

Educational Testing Service (ETS):

This is a center in Princeton, New Jersey, which produces and administers tests for the College Entrance Examination Board.

Expected Family Contribution (EFC):

This is the amount you and your family are expected to contribute toward the total cost of your education. EFC is determined by applying Federal Methodology formulas to the information you provide on the Free Application for Federal Students Aid (income, assets, savings, etc.)

Extracurricular Activities:

This includes any activity or involvement outside of the classroom (athletics, volunteer service, music, student government, etc).

Financial Aid:

This term is used for any financial help given to a student. Financial aid can be in the form of a gift, grant or scholarship (money that does not have to be paid back) or in the form of loan money (money which needs to be paid back) or work-study.

Financial Aid Award Letter:

A letter stating the type of financial aid (scholarship, loan and/or work-study) awarded to the student, the amount of aid, and the disbursement dates for the financial aid awards.

Financial Certifications:

United States Colleges will not accept non-U.S. citizens/permanent residents without verification that the student and his or her family can afford to pay the total cost of attendance for the full four years. Some schools will ask students to submit their own institutional form, while others may request the Foreign Student Financial Aid Application published by The College Board's College Scholarship Service. This form may be picked up in the Guidance Office.

Financial Need:

The difference between the cost of education at a particular college and the student's expected family contribution (EFC).

Federal Pell Grant:

Need-based financial aid awarded to U.S. citizens by the federal government that does not need to be paid back.

Federal Perkins Loan:

A need-based federally funded low interest loan given to U.S. citizens. No interest accrues while the student is enrolled in college at least part-time. Loan payments begin six months after graduation or after dropping out of college.

Federal Plus Loan: Loans that can be taken out by parents for their child's education through banks or other lending institutions at varying interest rates.

Federal Stafford Loan: Low-interest loans made to students in which the lender is a bank or savings and loan association. These are guaranteed in each state through the federal government and are for USA citizens. They must be repaid.

Fee Waiver: Permission, often granted upon request, for needy students to apply for admission without having to pay the application fee.

Financial Aid Form (FAF)

The financial needs analysis form submitted to the College Board by students applying for financial aid. Colleges that require the SAT for admission typically use the FAF.

Financial Aid Package:

The combination of loans, grants, and work-study that a school puts together for a student receiving financial aid.

Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):

The FAFSA is the need-analysis form sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education. U.S. citizens must fill out the FAFSA in order to be eligible for federal student aid.

Four-One-Four:

An academic calendar consisting of two regular four-month semesters with a short “January” term in between.

Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG):

Campus based programs for student aid funded by the US government and limited to US citizens for up to a certain amount of money.

Graduate/Professional Schools:

These schools offer Master’s, Doctorate degrees and professional degree programs (medicine, law, e.g.)

Grant:

A financial award that does not need to be paid back.

Greek System:

The social fraternities and sororities on a campus.

Humanities:

Subjects in which the primary focus is on human culture. Examples include history, philosophy, language, and literature.

Institutional Aid Form:

This is the financial aid application of a college or university that must be submitted along with the FASA and/or PROFILE form. Not all colleges require this.

Interdisciplinary Major:

A major that combines two complementary subjects from different fields.

Legacy:

An applicant for admission whose mother or father is an alumna or alumnus of that particular school. Students with legacy status are often given preferential treatment in admissions.

Liberal Arts:

A program of study which is designed to educate the “whole” person. Liberal Arts courses focus on the humanities, social sciences, arts, and natural sciences as opposed to technical or professional studies such as engineering or business.

Major:

A student’s area of specialization. Generally, major course requirements take up one-quarter to one-half of a student’s undergraduate program and are combined with general education requirements and electives.

Matriculate:

To enroll.

Merit Aid:

Money awarded to a student because of special talents or scholastic achievements and may or may not be based on need.

Mid-Year Report:

The Guidance Office sends this report to colleges and universities after the first semester. This updates you academic year and shows any significant changes.

National Merit Scholarship Program:

This program awards scholarships to those students who demonstrate academic excellence. The results of the PSAT/NMSQT are used to qualify the student for the scholarship program.

Need- Based Aid:

Money awarded solely on the basis of need. Some schools agree to pay the difference between their total fees and the expected family contribution; others pay only part, leaving some “unmet” need. Most financial aid packages consist of some combination of three components: grants, loans, and work-study.

Need-Blind Admissions:

A policy in which the applicant’s ability to pay does not affect the college’s consideration of the application.

Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT):

High school students take this standardized test in October of their junior year. It is a practice for the SAT I. It is divided into a verbal and math section.

Profile Form:

A financial aid form required by many colleges and scholarship programs. It is used to award private, non-federal student aid funds and is processed by the College Scholarship Service (CSS).

Recommendations:

A written assessment or evaluation. Recommendations are used by admissions counselors to learn more about a student’s interests, personal qualities, skills and abilities.

Rolling Admissions:

Applications are reviewed as soon as all required materials (application form, fees, transcript, recommendation, test scores, etc.) are received by the college. Students are typically notified of a decision four weeks after the application has been reviewed.

SAT I: Reasoning Test:

This test or the ACT is required for admission to most colleges. Colleges will specify which test is required. It is a three-hour exam consisting of math and verbal sections. The test measures verbal and math-reasoning skills developed over time. Scores range from 200(low) to 800(perfect).

SAT II: Subject Tests:

These tests measure knowledge in specific subject areas. Many colleges require or recommend one or more of these tests for admission review and/or for placement into college courses. Scores range from 200(low) to 800 (perfect).

Social Security Number:

An identification number assigned to U. S. citizens by the U.S. government. Universities may assign a similar number to non-U.S. citizens to be used as a university identification number.

Scholarship:

Financial aid that is based on merit and does not need to be repaid. Scholarships are given to students with exceptional skill or ability in a particular area (academic, athletic, music, art, etc.)

Score Choice:

This choice is only available to students registering for the SAT II Subject Tests. At registration, a student may request Score Choice, which will “hold” the student’s scores so he or she can review them before deciding whether or not to send them to colleges. Students choose whether or not to “release” their scores and send them on to colleges to become part of their permanent record. Once a score is released it cannot be withdrawn. Score Choice is not recommended for seniors because the scores will not reach colleges in time for application deadlines. Score choice is not available for the SAT I: Reasoning Test.

Secondary School Report Form (SSR):

This form is to be turned in to the Guidance office as soon as it is received. Your counselor will send this form along with your high school transcript, letter of recommendation, and school profile.

Standardized Admissions Tests:

This includes tests such as the SAT I, SAT II, ACT, and TOEFL which provide objective measures of students’ reasoning ability and/or knowledge in specific subject areas. These tests along with other information serve as predictive measures of students’ academic success in college.

Student Aid Report (SAR):

Students will receive the SAR four to six weeks after completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid. This form verifies the information provided by the family on the FAFSA. The SAR also gives you an index number which determines if you are eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant. In order to receive financial aid, the student must submit the SAR to financial aid office of the college he or she will be attending.

Student Descriptive Questionnaire (SDQ)

An optional questionnaire that can be completed by students when they register for either the SAT I or SAT II tests. The questionnaire asks for information about a student's background (academic courses taken, interests, goals, etc.). The results of the questionnaire are sent along with test scores to the colleges and scholarship organizations the student has chosen.

Student Visas:

Non U. S. citizen/non-permanent resident students attending school in the U. S. must have a student F-1 VISA. When a college admits a student, it sends an I-20 Form to that student. This form contains information about the student's intended major, length of course and the reporting date for that school. By law, schools may not send I-20's unless they have received an official Certification of Finances; this is why most U. S. schools will not admit students without financial certification. After receiving the I-20, the student should go to the U. S. Consulate approximately six weeks before leaving to apply for the F-1 Visa. Students will need to take with them a visa application, their signed I-20 form and a passport-sized photo.

Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL):

This test is offered by the Educational Testing Service for those students whose native language is not English. It is a three-hour multiple-choice exam designed to measure a student's English language proficiency. The TOEFL is divided into three sections: Listening Comprehension, Structure and Written Expression and Vocabulary and Reading Comprehension. Many colleges require this test for college admissions of non-native English speakers and some schools require that you take this test if one or both of your parents speak another language at home. The registration form may be picked up at the Guidance Office; however, this test is taken at Amideast. Some colleges based this on SAT scores. American citizens living abroad at times do have to take the test. Must register on-line www.toefl.org

Transcript:

This is an official record of the courses you have taken and the grades you have earned. The transcript is the most critical factor in the application review process.

Undergraduate:

A bachelor's or associate degree candidate. Once students have earned a bachelor's degree, they are eligible for entry to graduate programs at the master's and doctoral levels.

Wait List:

A list of students who were not initially accepted by a college but who will be accepted at a later date if space becomes available. Students who are wait-listed by their first-choice school should consider visiting or writing a letter expressing their desire to attend.

TYPES OF ADMISSION PLANS

Deferred Admissions:

This option allows the student once accepted, to defer or postpone their enrollment for one semester or up to one year. A student may wish to defer admission for a number of reasons including: finances, work, travel, sports, volunteer opportunities, and family or health issues. The application process and timetable are the same as regular admission, but students must notify the college that they will be deferring their enrollment until the following semester or year. Students will be required to pay a non-refundable deposit by May, the Candidate's Reply Date, to reserve a space for the following semester or academic year.

Early Action:

This is similar to Early Decision but different in two very important ways: (1) unlike ED plans, EA plans are offered at only a limited number of selective colleges; (2) EA is a non-binding commitment; students who are accepted are not committed to attend. As in ED, students may apply to **only one** school as an Early Action candidate and **may not apply to any college Early Decision**. Students may apply to other colleges at any time but must do so under regular admissions plans. Candidates have until May 1st to accept or decline admission. Under this plan, a student can be rejected and not deferred to the regular admissions pool. Junior year credentials should be very competitive for EA plans.

Early Admission/Early Entrance:

These plans are intended for exceptional high school students with outstanding high school records. Under these plans, high school juniors take college classes before they even graduate from high school. These programs are designed to give talented high school students the opportunity to take advanced level courses not offered at their high school.

Early Decision:

Early Decision admission plans are for students who have a clear first-choice school and are strong candidates for admission. Under this plan students are agreeing by contract to enter the college if accepted. Applications are typically due between November 1-15. ED applications are reviewed earlier than regular decision applications and students are typically notified of an admissions decision by mid-December. Colleges may act on an Early Decision application in one of three ways: admit, deny or defer. A defer means that the student's application will be reviewed again in the spring with the regular applicant pool. If a student is deferred he or she is no longer committed to attending the college. Students can submit an ED application to **ONLY ONE** college. ED candidates should always work on applications for back-up schools.

Open Admission:

Public institutions that are state funded most often use this admission plan. Open enrollment colleges have a published set of admission standards and students who meet or exceed these standards are typically admitted. These admission standards may include a certain grade point average; class rank, or SAT score.

Priority Deadline:

Many public universities state two application deadlines. There is a closing date for the receipt of all applications and an earlier priority date. Applications at these institutions are usually acted on in the order in which they are received with priority given to those applications received before the first deadline. Students applying to these types of institutions should send in their application material well before the priority closing date. Applicants are then notified on a rolling basis.

Regular Admission:

This is for students who apply by a stated deadline ranging from January 1st onwards. Students are notified of a decision by the deadline stated by the college, usually in March or April. Students have until May 1st to notify their college of choice that they plan to enroll and to decline all other offers of admission.

Rolling Admission:

Candidates submit applications at their convenience up to a certain date, usually January 1st or sooner. Completed applications are reviewed in the order in which they are received. Students are notified of an admissions decision within approximately four weeks or by a date specified by the college. If you are applying to a college with this plan you should apply well in advance of all stated deadlines. Rolling admission colleges fill available spaces on a first-come, first-served basis.

University of California System:

All applications to the University of California system are due by November 30th.

CATEGORIES FOR ADMISSIONS COMPETITIVENESS

MOST Competitive
(Or **SELECTIVE**)

SAT over 1250 on Critical Reading and Math total score.

Less than one-third of the applicants admitted

Examples:

Brown, Cornell, Dartmouth, Stanford, Georgetown, Harvard, MIT, Duke, Pennsylvania, Princeton, Rice, Yale

HIGHLY Competitive

SAT over 1150 Critical Reading and Math total score.

total score.

Less than one-fourth of the applicants admitted.

Examples:

Bucknell, Colgate, Hamilton, Lafayette, Tufts, Williams, UNC, Virginia

VERY Competitive

SAT median 1100 Critical Reading and Math total score.

Less than one-third of the applicants admitted.

COMPETITIVE

Examples:

Carnegie-Mellon, Mills, Notre Dame, RIP, Rutgers, Skidmore, Villanova, WPI

SAT median over 1000 Critical Reading and Math total score.

Fewer than half of the applicants admitted.

LESS Competitive

Examples:

Adelphi, Loyola, Muhlenberg, Northeastern, Pace, some State Colleges.

SAT below 900 total score.

85% of the applicants are admitted.

NON-Competitive

Examples:

Indiana University, Marymount, New England College

WHAT COLLEGES LOOK FOR IN AN APPLICANT

How do they make their decisions about whom to admit?

- ☑ **PROVEN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT** as demonstrated on the school transcript is a most important factor. How well have you done in your courses in high school is the best predictor of college success that there is.
- ☑ **COURSES:** Have you taken the most challenging academic program that you're capable of handling?
- ☑ **SAT OR TOEFL SCORES**, supported by Achievement Test scores in some cases, are sometimes as important as grades. Beware, however, of placing too much importance on them at the very start of your search.
- ☑ **A SCHOOL RECOMMENDATION** written by the College Counselor pulls together many of the different threads of your high school experience.
- ☑ **A STUDENT'S ACTIVITIES AND INTERESTS** which include time use, ideas, social concerns and non-scholastic potential. Two or three well-developed interests are preferable to a scattering of partially pursued clubs and activities. The nature of the interest is less important than your commitment to it.
- ☑ **TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS** are important and should be written carefully by people who know you at your best! (Be sure to line them up early).
- ☑ **ONE OUTSIDE RECOMMENDATION** is sometimes helpful. Only use if the person can supply vital information that the school can not or if the college specifically asks for an outside recommendation.
- ☑ **THE APPLICATION ITSELF:** Colleges consider carefully the time and thought you put into your applications, especially the college essay. Don't dash them out hastily or at the last minute. Make sure your application is neat and looks good. It is good if it can be typed. Use a word processor for application essays.
- ☑ **INDIVIDUAL FLAVOR:** Any admission's committee seeks out uniqueness in your admissions credentials, a different or uncommon consideration which may set you apart from the other candidates and may produce a favorable decision for you. Good colleges want interesting students: outstanding musicians, writers actors, athletes, editors and photographers. They want students who have engaged in unusual hobbies or activities, who have had work experiences, who have initiated their own projects, who have studied or traveled and grown from these experiences. Colleges are seeking a well-rounded class more than a well-rounded individual.

- ☑ **GOAL ORIENTATION** as demonstrated by your motivation for a particular course of study.
- ☑ **SCHOOL(S) ATTENDED:** International schools have built solid academic reputations and are becoming well known in certain college circuits.
- ☑ **DAUGHTERS AND SONS OF ALUMNI** receive careful attention at most colleges. Many highly selective colleges try to accept about 50% of alumni look” by the Admission people. children who apply. Alumni children will usually always get at least a “second look” by the Admission people.
- ☑ **CORRESPONDENCE** and college contacts should be initiated by you, the student, and not by your parents. Many college admission’s personnel feel that direct correspondence from a student is a reflection of the student’s sense of responsibility, organization, courtesy and good judgment. When parents become too involved, colleges feel that the student lacks those above-mentioned qualities.

Myths about College Admissions

There are many myths about college admission that must be dispelled as students and parents are selecting schools.

Myth 1: If I Work Hard Enough, I will Get Admitted to the Most Selective College.

Admission to extremely selective college is based upon superior effort, achievement, and aptitude. Hard work will indeed result in admission to college but it is not the only requirement for those highly, highly selective schools.

Myth 2: The More Prestigious the College the Better.

The most prestigious colleges in the USA are primarily large research universities where the emphasis is upon research, publishing, consulting, and graduate teaching. At some of these brand name schools up to 70% of the freshman and sophomore teaching can be done by teaching assistants (graduate assistants), many of whom may have marginal English language skills. Studies show that at research universities 90% of the faculty taught fewer than the normal teaching load of 12-14 hours per week (60% total teaching less than 4 hours) with 25% doing no teaching at all. At small liberal arts colleges only 3% do no teaching with 84% teaching at least 3 hours.

Myth 3: The More Selective the College the Better

The degree of selectivity tells more about the popularity of a school than it does about the quality of education. Extremely selective schools are many times known for their graduate programs rather than undergraduate education or popularity of athletic programs. Better measurements of quality are the percentage of students who graduate, the percentage of students who go on to graduate school, and attrition after the freshman year.

Myth 4: High Class Rank Virtually Guarantees Admissions to any Ivy League.

In just the USA alone, there are some 56,000 valedictorians and salutatorians each year for fewer than 10,000 total openings in the freshman classes of just the Ivy League schools. Keep in mind that all Harvard freshmen are not valedictorians.

Myth 5: Eastern USA Schools are the Best and Most Desirable; Southern Schools are the Least Desirable; and Forget About the Dreary Siberian Plain Between Pennsylvania and the Colorado Ski Slopes known as the Midwest.

The Midwest has 150 year-tradition of quality higher education and many of the recent innovations in higher education have come from this region. Student bodies in the mid-west are highly diverse. Quality and diversity are distributed institutionally, not geographically. Campuses “eastern-looking” and “ivy covered” are found throughout the mid-west and the south.

Myth 6: My GPA is the Most Important Factor in College Admission.

There are many important factors when deciding about college admission. The classes you took, your SAT I & II scores, your recommendations, and consistency between GPA and SAT scores. Colleges want students who are interested in learning, have excellent study habits, and show responsibility in decision-making.

Myth 7: Colleges Expect Students to have taken AP Courses and They Look Good On Your Transcripts.

Approximately 5% of students applying to college have AP classes. Many schools do not offer AP classes. The purpose of an AP class is to challenge your learning and to try to earn college credit. If you should choose an AP classes realize that it requires a great deal of time and energy. Do not chose it because you believe it will raise your grade point or look good on your transcript. What colleges want to know is that you are willing to challenge yourself and will work hard to accept that college. AP classes can be most valuable if your choice is made for sound academic reasons.

Myth 8: AP Calculus is a Must.

The normal college tract is Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II and Pre- Calculus. AP calculus is definitely not a must. It is the same as any of the AP classes.

Myth 9: Community Colleges Give an Inferior Education.

Community colleges can be an excellent choice. Here a student can become adjusted to college life, get more individual attention, and have more opportunity to learn what may have been missed in high school. After two years, you can transfer to a four-year school, and graduate in two more years.

SAT TEST FACTS

- All seniors should take the SAT I in May of their junior year. If possible SAT II in June of subject matter especially studied that year. For instance in the subject in which you were in an AP class. If that is not possible, then take them in October or November of your senior year.
- Not all colleges require SAT II tests. Be sure to check the college view book, application, or any other literature you receive. Also, look for the admission receive. Also, look for the admission requirements listed in college guides available in Career for specific colleges Room or Guidance Office.
- Statistically, your scores will tend to cluster around the “true score,” going up or down within a certain range. Your score has a range score, which tells where you will probably score no matter how many times you take the test. The exception to this would be if it was your first sitting and you were unaware of certain aspects of the test or if you were ill or under unusual stress.
- Taking practice tests or attending the class on campus for SAT readiness given each semester is a good idea. Knowing the basic format of test and the instructions of each section can save you time.
- Retaking the SAT in your senior year is okay if you want another try. If you wish to do this, plan on taking either the October or November test.
- You can only take the SAT I or SAT II in one test day. It is impossible to do both.
- Some colleges require the ACT, another standardized entrance test. Most colleges will take the SAT, however. Be sure and check college data to know which tests are required.
- The TOEFL test is required by most colleges and universities in the U. S. if your first language is not English. If you are applying as a U. S. citizen it is not necessary. The results of this test are only valid for two years so it would be best to take this in the fall of your senior year.

- The TOEFL test is administered at different locations throughout Kuwait . You apply on-line. The phone number of AMIDEAST is in the booklet.
- It is usually advisable to take the TOEFL since you will probably score quite high. This test does not replace the SAT verbal. A high TOEFL score, however, will allow admission counselors a better perspective of your English ability.

When you register for any of the standardized tests, you are given the opportunity to designate a certain number of colleges free of charge. After the test date, you must contact College Board to have scores sent. Scores **MUST be sent by contacting SAT. This is also true of TOEFL. You must contact them to send scores.**

REMEMBER: YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR GETTING YOUR OWN TEST SCORES TO THE COLLEGES.

THE FOLLOWING ACHIEVEMENT TESTS ARE OFFERED

Biology	Economics (macro and micro)
English Language (Grade 11)	English Literature (Gr. 12)
Calculus AB	Chemistry
Computer Science	French
Physics B	Spanish
Statistics	Studio Art
United States History	World History

TEST-TAKING ADVICE & TIPS

Remember that the results of admission tests are not the most important factor in the admissions decisions. Admissions tests are only **one** of the many factors colleges consider when making decisions. The most important factor in the admissions decision is your academic transcript, the record of the courses you have taken, and the grades you have earned.

- It is extremely important that you check the test requirements for each university for which you intend to apply and that you take all required tests (SAT I, SAT II, TOEFL) well in advance of stated deadlines.
- Keep track of test registration deadlines which will be posted in the Guidance Office and on the bulletin board outside the Guidance Office.
- Fill out the test registration forms using the name on your passport in exactly the same way each time you take the test. Any discrepancies may cause a delay in your score report. Also check to be sure that your records at ASK use the same name.
- **The College Entrance Examination Code (CEEB) for ASK is 683-080. Our test center 52935. Use these codes when registering for SAT I and SAT II tests.**
- If you are a United States citizen and do not have a social security number, apply for one now. This number is used for identification on college applications and college testing materials.
- **EARLY DECISION/EARLY ACTION candidates must complete all college testing by the spring of their junior year.**
- Take time to familiarize yourself with the format and subject content of the various college admissions exams. Consult test preparation books and the testing bulletins. These books include information about test-taking strategies, skills review, sample tests and an overview of the format of the exams.
- Be sure to list the code numbers of the universities in which you have an interest on the registration forms for all tests so the colleges will receive your score reports. The code numbers are listed in the SAT Bulletin of Information. For the SAT's, you are entitled to four free official score reports which will be sent directly to the schools you chose by the Educational Testing Service. All schools require that SAT scores be sent directly by SAT. If you require more than four reports or do not request the four when registering for the test, you will need to pay an additional fee.
- **It is your responsibility to make sure your score reports are sent to the colleges.**

- Always review your admission ticket for errors and if necessary, fill out the correction form. If you do not receive an admission ticket, contact the Guidance Office to see if your name and registration number are on the official form.
- Be aware that all SAT I test scores are sent to the colleges and become a part of your SAT test cumulative record.
- Students taking the SAT II in their senior year should not choose the Score Choice option because it will cause a significant delay in reporting scores to colleges. It takes at least six weeks from the time a student requests the release of score for that score to arrive at colleges which may be too late to meet college application deadlines.
- SAT II test scores are a part of your SAT cumulative test record.

**IT IS THE STUDENT'S RESPONSIBILITY TO CHECK ON THE
TEST DATES AND TO COMPLETE THEIR TEST
REGISTRATIONS ON TIME. TEST DATES ARE POSTED IN
THE GUIDANCE OFFICE.**



WEB SITES FOR COLLEGES AND CAREERS

Popular Search Engines and Portals

Yahoo!

www.yahoo.com

Magellan

www.mckinley.com

Looksmart

www.looksmart.com

Yahooligans

www.yahooligans.com

Hotbot

www.hotbot.com

Dogpile

www.dogpile.com

AltaVista

www.altavista.com

www.usnews.com/usnews/edu/college/ranking/rankindex.htm

www.kuwaitculture.com



College Admissions

College Board Online

www.collegeboard.org

This is the most comprehensive Web site for college-bound students and their parents. You'll find tips on taking college admission tests, conducting a college and career search, and much more.

CollegeNET

www.collegenet.com

Search from a database of over 2,500 2-year and 4-year colleges, universities, junior colleges, technical schools, law schools and medical schools in the United States, Canada, and New Zealand. Students can read college search related articles, take a 3_D campus tour, and apply for certain college on-line. There is also a scholarship search and information about financial aid.

College Press Network

www.cpnet.com

The online college newspapers

Contains an index of on-line student newspapers. Access this information to see what's happening on the campus.

College Town

www.ctown.com

A database of over 10,000 institutions.

Colleges and Universities

www.universities.com

A database of over 3,000 colleges and universities.

CollegeView

www.collegeview.com

Profiles of over 3,500 2-year and 4-year colleges and universities in the United States. Search the database by: major, State, student body size, type of college, athletic programs, city size or name. Find out about career planning and financial aid, take a virtual college tour and file electronic applications.

EMBARK

www.embark.com

You can register for free and receive important information about college deadlines and financial aid. You can also investigate different colleges.

FishNet

www.javi.com/javi

Another comprehensive site that allows students do a search using their own preferences and criteria (region of the country, cost, freshman class size, size of the community and type of school). There is financial aid information, articles related to the college admissions process and college life, a student on-line forum and advice from the "Admissions Guru." Students can also download copies of the Common Application and build a Personal Profile that can be sent along to colleges.

International Ed. Services

www.ies-ed.com

A placement service for foreign students interested in studying at colleges in the United States and Canada. Students are matched with institutions based on academic, financial and geographic needs.

Peterson's Online

www.petersons.com

An extensive education site with information about K-12 schools, colleges, and universities, graduate schools, study abroad programs, careers and jobs, summer programs, financing your education, distance learning and testing.

Preparing Your Child for College

www.ed.gov/pubs/Prepare

This is an on-line handbook published in 1994 by the U. S. Department of Education as a resource book for parents. Topics: Why attend college? How Can My Child Prepare? How Can My Child Choose a College? Financing a College Education.

The Princeton Review: The Best Colleges

www.review.com

This is the Princeton's Reviews own rating of the best 309 colleges in the United States.

CollegeXpress

www.collegexpres.com

Great information on thousands of colleges, an "ask the expert" area, and plenty of general advice on the college transition process.

Virtual College Day

www.criterioninfo.net/vcd.html

This site allows you to tour the campuses of selected colleges.

XAP Corporation

www.xap.com

Search for colleges by name or geographic region or download copies of admission applications for selected copies.

www.get-recruited.com - offers students a chance to be recruited by colleges throughout the United States.

Association of Canadian Community Colleges (ACCC)

www.accc.ca

Information on community college in Canada

Including a list of publications, member institutions, programs and services, and related links.

Intergovernmental on-Line Information Kiosk

www.intergov.gc.ca/edu/index.html

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC)

www.aucc.ca

Financial Aid

College Board Online

www.collegeboard.org/fundfinder/html/ssrcht.html

FinAid

www.finaid.org

Fastweb

www.fastweb.com

FAFSA Online

www.ed.gov/prog_info/SFA/FAFSA

www.college-scholarships.com

Links to 9 free Internet scholarships plus other college information.

www.guaranteed-scholarships.com

Lists and describes scholarships offered by individual colleges/universities to all enrolled.

Information about College Entrance Exams

ETS Net

www.ets.org

This is the home page of the Educational Testing Service, the service that develops achievement, occupational, and college admissions tests. Register for tests on-line,

take practice tests, find out more about financial aid and careers.

SAT Program

www.collegeboard.org

This page of the College Board site will provide you with information about SAT II & I. You will find information about registration, access testing dates, score reporting, get tips for test preparation and test your knowledge with the test question of the day.

TOEFLOnLine

www.toefl.org

Find out more about the Test of English as a Foreign Language. This test is required by most colleges and universities for students whose first language is not English. Register on-line, find out the testing dates, answer practice questions and access study materials.

Kaplan Educational Center

www.kaplan.com

An educational company specializing in test preparation, admissions, and career services.

Careers

The Occupational Outlook Handbook

www.stats.bls.gov/ocohome.htm

A document put out by the government that describes different occupations and gives vital statistics about it.

Military Career Guide Online

www.militarycareers.com

DEVELOPING A COLLEGE LIST

What is the size of your ideal school? Do you want to be on a small campus or larger campus?

- Small (under 2,500)
- Medium (2,500 to 6,000)
- Large (6,000 to 10,000)
- Extra Large (10,000 +)

Where do you want to go to college?

- United States
- United Kingdom
- Canada
- Kuwait
- Middle East _____
- Other _____

If you are interested in the United States, which region is of most interest?
Circle all that interest you.

Pacific and Mountain States

Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming

North Central States

Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota

Great Lakes States

Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin

South Central States

Alabama, Arkansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas

South Atlantic States

Delaware, District of Columbia, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia

Middle Atlantic States

New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania

New England States

Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, Massachusetts

What about the size of the surrounding community?

- Large City
- Small City
- Suburbs
- Rural
- No Preference

How selective do you want your college to be?

- Open (all high school graduates accepted)
- Less Competitive (some freshman from the lower half of the class are accepted)
- Competitive (majority of students are in the top 25% of their high school class)
- Selective (majority of students are in the top 25% of their high school class)
- Highly Selective (majority of students in the top 10% of their high school class)

Are there any special programs that your ideal college should have?

- Internships
- Cooperative Education
- Study Abroad
- Self-Designed Majors
- Exchange Programs
- Double-Major
- Honors Program
- Community Service Program

What are your academic interests?

- Business
- Communications
- Drama/Theater
- Education
- Engineering
- Fine Arts
- Foreign Languages
- Law
- Liberal Arts
- Math
- Medicine
- Pre-professional
- Science
- Social Sciences
- Undecided
- Other _____

Do you have any special extracurricular activity that you wish to pursue in college (music, drama, student government, newspaper, radio station...)?

Is there a sport that you would like to play in college and if so what is

COLLEGE LIST

When you have completed your research, list those colleges that interest you the most (in no particular order) or those that you consider to be “possible” choices for further exploration.

- 1 _____

- 2 _____

- 3 _____

- 4 _____

- 5 _____

- 6 _____

- 7 _____

- 8 _____

- 9 _____

- 10 _____

- 11 _____

- 12 _____

EVALUATING YOUR COLLEGE LIST

Admissions

- ✓ What standardized tests are required for admission to this school (SAT I, SAT II, TOEFL, ACT)?
- ✓ When is the admission deadline?
- ✓ What percentage of applicants were accepted last year?
- ✓ What is the average rank/grade point average of currently enrolled freshman?
- ✓ What were the average SAT, TOEFL, or ACT test scores for last year's freshman class?
- ✓ How selective are the admission standards at his institution?
- ✓ What is the recommended High School academic preparation program for this school?
- ✓ Does this school offer Early Decision or Early Action admissions?

Academics

- ✓ Does this college have the major/programs in which I am interested?
- ✓ What is the student/faculty ratio for undergraduate courses?
- ✓ How many courses do most undergraduate students take each term?
- ✓ Who teaches introductory courses, faculty members or teaching assistants?
- ✓ What is the average class size of freshman introductory courses?
- ✓ What is the format of school calendar (semester, trimester, quarterly, etc.)?
- ✓ How many courses will I need to graduate?
- ✓ When will I need to declare a major?
- ✓ Does this college offer dual-majors?
- ✓ Is there an honor program?
- ✓ Does this school offer a cooperative education program?
- ✓ What opportunities are there for independent study?
- ✓ Are there exchange programs with other colleges?
- ✓ What opportunities are there to study abroad?
- ✓ Are internships in my field available?
- ✓ What percentage of students goes on to graduate school?

Student Body

- ✓ What is the size of the freshman class?
- ✓ What is the total enrollment for this school?
- ✓ How diverse is the student body (economically, ethnically, geographically, etc.)
- ✓ What is the male/female ratio?
- ✓ What is the general orientation of students (academic, scientific, social service, arts, etc.)?

Student Services & Programs

- ✓ Will I be assigned an international student advisor?
- ✓ Is there an international student center or club on campus?
- ✓ Will I be assigned an academic counselor or a faculty advisor to help me choose my courses?
- ✓ Is there a career-counseling center for help with resume writing, interviewing, and job placement?
- ✓ Is there a personal counseling center available?
- ✓ Will I have access to a health center on-campus?

Student Life

- ✓ Are there theaters, concert halls, or galleries nearby?
- ✓ Are there movie theaters, restaurants, and sports complexes nearby?
- ✓ Does the school regularly sponsor dances, concerts, guest speakers, etc.?
- ✓ Is there an extracurricular activity in which I have an interest on campus?
- ✓ Are intramural sports available?
- ✓ What percentage of students lives on campus and what percentage commutes?
- ✓ What role do fraternities and sororities play on campus?
- ✓ What are the most popular activities/clubs on campus?
- ✓ Are cars allowed on campus?
- ✓ What is the crime rate on campus?
- ✓ Does the school have an honor code?

Housing and Dining Facilities

- ✓ Are the dorms co-ed or single sex?
- ✓ Are apartments available for off-campus housing?
- ✓ Can I have a car on campus?
- ✓ Will dorms be available after my freshman year?
- ✓ Are there fraternity/sorority houses available?
- ✓ How close are the dorms to the classrooms and dining facilities?
- ✓ Are there any “special” dorms available (language, honors, international, etc.)?
- ✓ Are most freshman dorm rooms singles, double, triples or quads?
- ✓ Are there a variety of food plans available?

Campus Facilities:

- ✓ How is the library (to study, do research: are the hours convenient, etc.)?
- ✓ How are the recreation facilities (gym, tracks, pools, etc.)?
- ✓ How are the sports facilities (tennis courts, fields, weight rooms, etc.)?
- ✓ How accessible are the computer labs?
- ✓ How are the music practice rooms?
- ✓ Is the student center a comfortable place to “hang-out”?
- ✓ What is the condition of the buildings on campus?
- ✓ Is there a mosque on campus?

Cost and Financial Aid:

- ✓ What is the total cost to attend this college/university (tuition, room and board, books and supplies, travel expenses and living expenses)?
- ✓ Are there any special fees for my particular program or major (lab fees, materials cost, etc.)?
- ✓ What percentage of students receives financial aid?
- ✓ What is the average financial aid package?
- ✓ Does this school offer financial aid and/or scholarships for international students?
- ✓ Are there opportunities to find on-campus jobs?

Sample Letter to Request College Information

The following is a sample letter that can be used to request materials from colleges. Customize this letter to request any additional information that is important to you.

Your mailing address in Kuwait

Today's Date

Director of Admissions
Name of College
Street Address
State
Country

Dear Sir or Madam:

I am a _____ citizen and am interested in applying for admission to your college as a first-year student entering September 200__.

I am a student at the American School of Kuwait and expect to graduate in June of 200__. I would appreciate if you could send me the following materials:

1. An application for (native citizens or international students).
2. A catalog and view book with admissions information and course offerings.
3. Any special information that is important to you (sports offerings, internship programs, study abroad information, etc.)
4. Information regarding financial aid and the financial aid process.

Since surface mail can take up to eight weeks, I would appreciate it if you would send all materials via Air Mail.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Sign your name here as you would on a legal document.

MEETING WITH COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE

Each year a wide variety of representatives, who are actively recruiting qualified applicants for their campuses, visit our campus. This is an excellent opportunity to speak to knowledgeable people who can answer questions accurately with current information. These visits are announced in the daily bulletin, and students may sign up in the office. Your name will appear in the bulletin the day before the visit so teachers know you will be absent. You will be sent for at the appropriate time. Make arrangements to make-up work missed.

Frequently asked questions by students:

- With regard to admissions requirements, do you accept SAT and/or ACT?
- Do you require SAT II for admission?
- What is the most important factor in college admission?
- What type of admission procedure do you have?
- What are the standards of admission for the “typical” student?
- Do you offer financial aid to international students?
- What percentage of students are international students?
- Are students assigned an academic adviser?
- What is the attrition (drop-out) rate?
- What percentage of students graduate in 4 years?
- Do you accept AP credit?
- What percentage of students goes on to graduate school in (specific major)?
- What is the average class size of freshman classes?
- Is faculty available to provide assistance? (office hours required)?
- What percentage of your classes is taught by full-time faculty?
- Do graduate students (TA’s) teach classes?
- Are library resources accessible by computer?
- What percentage of students lives on-campus?
- Is housing guaranteed all four years?
- Is your college a “suitcase” college?
- Describe your living accommodations.
- How are roommates chosen the freshman year?
- How is roommate conflict resolved?
- What are the meal-plan options?
- What services (counseling, career, academic, advisement, etc. are offered?
- How convenient is transportation on campus? What kind?
- How is the safety on campus?

Student Responsibilities in College Admissions

KNOW THYSELF! The first step in the college admissions process is self-assessment. Take time to think objectively about yourself. What are your strengths and weaknesses likes and dislikes, skills, abilities, interests, values, needs and goals. The key to choosing a college that will be both personally and academically rewarding is a thorough self-assessment.

BE FAMILIAR WITH YOUR ACADEMIC RECORD: You should be aware of the level of difficulty of your courses (college preparatory courses or general), the grades you have earned, your grade point average and standardized tests scores. When researching colleges it's important to be able to compare yourself academically to the currently enrolled freshman class.

MEET REGULARLY WITH YOUR COUNSELOR: You should meet regularly with your college counselor to discuss your college plans and academic progress.

APPLICATION MATERIALS: It is your responsibility to contact colleges to request: applications, college catalog, financial aid information and any other information that will help you to decide if college is right for you.

ADMISSIONS AND FINANCIAL AID POLICIES: It is your responsibility to understand the admission and financial aid policies and procedures of each college in which you are applying.

CHOOSING A COLLEGE: It is your responsibility to research colleges and develop a list of schools that will meet both your academic and personal needs. Make use of college catalogs, the worldwide web, college handbooks, guidebooks and videos available in the Career Room. Use the Internet to research the college. Meet with college representatives that visit ASK and, if at all possible, visit college campuses and interview with admission representatives. Speak with your parents, teachers, counselors, friends and former classmates to gather as much information as possible to make an informed decision about those colleges that will meet your academic and personal needs.

FINAL LIST: It is your responsibility to develop a "final list" of colleges to which you will eventually apply. The "final list" should include colleges that are of varying degree of admission difficulty for you. Choose at least two colleges each category: reach, target and safety. Colleges in the "reach" category are schools where your test scores, grades and/or rank in class are not as strong as those reported for the currently enrolled freshmen class. At "target" colleges, your academic record and extracurricular involvement closely matches that of currently enrolled freshmen. "Safety" schools are those schools where your academic "statistics" exceed those of currently enrolled freshmen. It is important to research these colleges thoroughly; you should want to attend any school on your list regardless of the category.

ADMISSION TESTS: It is your responsibility to find out which college admissions tests are required at each college you will be applying to and that you register for and take all required tests (SAT I, SAT II, TOEFL, and/or ACT).

TESTING RESULTS: It is your responsibility to arrange for the results of all standardized tests to be sent to the colleges where you are submitting applications.

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is your responsibility to request recommendations from your teachers.

INTERVIEWS: If a college requests or recommends an on-campus or alumni interview, it is your responsibility to contact the college to arrange a meeting.

ESSAYS: It is your responsibility to write your own application essays/personal statements and have them reviewed by teachers and/or counselor.

COMPLETING THE APPLICATION: It is your responsibility to complete your own college applications before the deadlines outlined by the colleges.

APPLICATION MATERIALS: It is your responsibility to contact the colleges to make sure that all application materials have been sent to and received by the admissions and/or financial aid offices (applications, test scores, transcripts, secondary school reports, mid-year reports, letters of recommendation and financial aid forms).

EARLY DECISION/EARLY ACTION: You are allowed to apply to only *one* college under the most colleges Early Decision or Early Action program. If you are accepted under an Early Decision plan, you must withdraw all applications submitted to other colleges.

KEEPING RECORDS: Make photocopies of everything you send to the colleges. If you speak to someone on the phone, take his/her name and write yourself a short memo about the conversation.

MAKING DECISIONS: It is your responsibility to notify each college which accepts you, your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission. You must reply by May 1.

DEPOSITS: You are allowed to accept admission and submit a deposit to only **one** college.

KEEP US INFORMED: It is your responsibility to notify the Guidance Office of all college admission decisions

COMPLETING THE COLLEGE APPLICATION

- Before you begin to work on your applications, sit down and take some time to think about you. Make a list of the extracurricular activities in which you have been involved and note the amount of time spent each week participating in those activities. Also note any awards or honors you have received and positions held. Next, think about your out-of-school activities (work, volunteer service, travel, competitions, etc.) and be sure to document your experiences. Finally, make a list of any academic honors or awards you have received. This “resume” of experiences will help you to fill out your college application.
- Get a calendar and keep track of all financial aid and application deadlines.
- Be sure to give all supporting documents to the Guidance Office as soon as you receive your application. (The Secondary School Report form the teacher’s recommendation form and the counselor’s recommendation form).
- Applications should be completed on-line whenever possible. Print a copy for your records.
- Begin working on the applications in order of their deadlines, working on colleges with the earliest deadline first.
- Many colleges (over 130) accept the Common Application. Colleges that accept the Common Application have all signed an agreement stating that they give the same consideration to The Common Application as they do to their own institutional form. The Common Application save students time by allowing them to fill out one application, photocopy it and send off copies to other participating CA colleges. Be sure to note any supplementary materials required by the colleges.
- ALWAYS follow directions. Each application is different and so are the procedures and instructions for filling them out. Read each application carefully and follow all directions for completing the forms.
- If you are unsure about which major you would like to apply to, it is perfectly acceptable to choose “undecided”.

- Check to see if the college requires recommendations from a particular teacher or teachers. You should choose individual that know you well and can comment about you and your achievements both inside and outside the classroom.
- Give your teacher at least two weeks for completing recommendation forms and remember to send thank-you notes to those who took the time to write your recommendations.
- The application essay is an important part of the application process and deserves much thought and consideration. The essay serves a dual purpose: it gives an indication as to how effectively you can write; it gives the admissions committee a glance at who you are as a person. This is your golden opportunity to let them know who you are and what you value. Let them know what it is that makes you unique and special.
- ALWAYS have someone proofread your essays, preferably your English teacher.
- Make sure you actually answer the essay question asked. Do not try to “fit” one essay for all your applications.
- If there is an “optional” essay on the application, ALWAYS answer the question.
- Some applications will ask you where else you will be applying. Colleges use this information to find out who their competition is and to try to figure out whether or not they are your first-choice school. It is best to not answer this question and simply write undecided.
- When listing your extracurricular activities, list those which have been the most meaningful to you. This includes both in and out - of school activities
- Include information or material that attest t o your special talents if appropriate.
- ALWAYS keep copies of all documents sent to the colleges.
- Contact the colleges if you want to be sure material has been received.
- Make your appointment with the Guidance Office to send material well in advance of the deadline.
- Be sure to attach a check drawn on U.S. bank to pay your application fees or specified bank from the type of currency needed, or pay on-line.

PERSONAL ESSAY

You may be asked to include a self-description in some of your applications. Here are a few ideas you can use as a guide.

1. Academic Qualities:

Tell about yourself as a student. Mention what you feel are your strong areas and how well that you have performed as a student.

2. Personal Qualities:

Describe how you feel about yourself as a person, including those qualities that you feel comfortable with, the traits that you like in yourself.

3. Your Values:

In a few sentences, mention the things that you feel are important to you in your life, those things about which you feel strongly.

4. Special Talent:

Note any talent or abilities that you may have which have not been mentioned and which may not otherwise be known.

5. Special Qualities:

Are there any traits of which you may be aware, that you may possess, that you could recognize as unique, special or different?

6. Things About Which You Are Enthusiastic:

Describe those things about which you are particularly interested, things you enjoy doing and in doing them, you receive satisfaction.

7. Contributions:

What would you consider to be important contributions you have made to your home, your school, and your community?

Without being egotistical, tell the college or university why you are more attractive as a candidate for this school than the person who has basically the same qualifications as you. The fact that you are living in Kuwait is not unusual unless you explain how it has affected you and how the experience has added to your personal growth.

Remember you are trying to let the university know about you and how you will add to their campus. They are also examining your writing style. They are interested in your ability to write succinctly.

COMMONLY ASKED ESSAY QUESTIONS

- Evaluate a significant experience or achievement that has special meaning to you.
- Discuss some issue of personal, local or national concern and its importance to you.
- Indicate a person who has had a significant influence on you and describe that influence.

(Common Application—used by 122 colleges and universities)

Pick one of the following topics and write a one-page essay on a sheet of paper:

- A conclusion you have reached about a question with no provable answer.
- An idea, value, or cause to which you have lost your heart and head.
- An experience that changed your view of life in a deep and significant way.

(Cornell University)

Please answer one of the following (guideline: 250 words or less):

- a) Which book or books have affected you most and why?
- b) Discuss the academic experience (course, project, paper, event) that has meant the most to you.

(Harvard University)

- Identify a person who has had a significant influence on you and describe that influence.
- A successful college community depends greatly on the intellectual and personal contributions of its individual members. Please share with us what you believe the Wesleyan student could learn from you, both inside and outside the classroom.

(Wesleyan University)

While we are very interested in your intellectual abilities, your sense of imagination and creativity are also important to us. With this in mind, please respond to one of the following two requests. We're interested not so much in whom or what you choose to write about, but in how you use your choice to illustrate something important about yourself and your values.

- a) If you were given the opportunity to spend an evening with any one person, living or deceased, or fictional, whom would you choose and why?
- b) You have just completed your 300 page autobiography. Please submit page 217.
page 217.

(University of Pennsylvania)

Comment on an experience that helped you to discern or define a value that you hold.

(Williams College)

Diversity among people contributes to a unique blend of cultures and enriched the university community. Briefly describe the environment in which you grew up and how it has influenced your interests, your values and your thinking about sexism, racism, and prejudice.

(Tufts)

What prominent person (past or present) do you particularly admire? Why?

What idea has most influenced your life? Explain.

Describe a situation in which your values or beliefs were questioned by someone you respect. How was it resolved?

(Dartmouth)

What's in a college Essay? – collegeboard.com

Understanding what colleges are looking for

- The college essay gives you a chance to tell a school about you. Other parts of your application—grades, scores, and recommendations—show what you've done. Your college essay reveals who you are. It can be a strong voice in your favor and an away to stand out from the rest.
- An essay of self-analysis – Self-analysis isn't easy and it can be especially hard to do at their point in your life, when many of your goals and plans are unsettled.
- You may already have confronted this problem at college interviews. Admission people ask, "Tell us about yourself" or "What are your hopes and aspirations?" These are questions that require some thought, and they're pretty hard. The essay is a chance to demonstrate which questions you've asked yourself and what answers you've found.
- Writing evaluation – Your college essay is going to be examined as a clue to your writing ability by an audience who is both critical and crucial. For example, Columbia University lets you know what they're looking for right on the application: "Please remember that we are concerned not only with the substance of your prose but with your writing as well."
- After all, a very large part of your performance and evaluation in college will be based on essays and written tests.
- Short-answer questions – Short answer questions, which ask for only a paragraph response, should be approached with the same care and attention you gave to the full-length essay. The writing process is the same. Just reduce the introduction and conclusion to a sentence each. Try to make your topic vivid in a few lines and never sacrifice specifics.
- Writing samples – Some schools require or encourage submission of an academic essay or writing sample. There's no reason not to send a school essay. Choose a strong performance (a B+ or better) and a paper on a not-too-esoteric topic. Do not send a 15-page term paper or a collation of library research. A short, illuminating essay on one poem, one lab experiment, one incident in history, is a good choice.

TOP TEN COLLEGE ESSAY TIPS – how to write a winning essay

From collegeboard.com

Write a winning essay – You, in a thousand words or less

1. Your college essays say a great deal about whether you have the basic skills need to succeed in college—organization, analysis, and interpretation—look at other, well-written essay for what works.
2. Read the question carefully. Keep your essay as focused as possible. One of the most common errors is not answering the question that's being asked.
3. Don't write your life story. Choose an interesting, defining moment from you life and use it to illustrate a positive quality you'd like to convey to the admission committee.
4. Give the reader a clear sense of who you are. If you decide to share something of an emotional nature, make sure your comfortable with the subject and the feelings involved.
5. Show signs of personal growth, but don't obsess over personal problems.
6. Use direct and unpretentious language. Readers can tell if you're comfortable with the language you're using, or whether you're just writing your essay from the dictionary. A good rule-of thumb: if in doubt, keep it simple.
7. Don't repeat information that can be found in other parts of your application. Your essay is an opportunity to reveal who you are. It can be a strong voice in your favor and a way to stand out from the rest.
8. Proof your essays vigorously for grammar and spelling errors. Take advantage of your work processor's spell-check feature, but remember that if can only point out words that aren't in the dictionary (in other words, it won't be able to tell you if you're using its or it's incorrectly).
9. Get a second opinion – have people you trust read your essays and give you feedback on your writing.
10. Avoid going over the college's length limit for the essay. You don't want to make it seem that you can't follow directions.

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST				
APPLICATION INFORMATION	College A	College B	College C	College D
Date Application Materials Requested				
Date Application Materials Received				
Application Deadline A				
Special Academic Requirements				
Date Application Completed and Given to Counselor Application Received by College				
SCHOOL REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS				
Mid-Year School Report Form Given to Counselor				
Report Received by the College				
Counselor Recommendation				
Secondary School Report Given to Counselor				
SSR and Recommendation Forms Received by the College				
First Recommendation Form Given to _____ (Date)				
Given to Counselor (Date)				
Second Recommendation Form Given to _____ (Date)				
Given to Counselor _____ (Date)				
ADMISSIONS TESTS				
Required Tests (SAT I, SAT II, TOEFL and/or ACT)				
Test Registration Deadlines				
Testing Date(s)				
Scores Sent to Colleges				
INTERVIEWS				
Is an interview required?				
Interview Date				
Name of Interviewer				
Thank you Note Sent				

COLLEGE APPLICATION CHECKLIST				
FINANCIAL AID	College A	College B	College C	College D
Financial Aid Forms Required:				
FAFSA, PROFILE and/or the College's Own Form				
College Financial Aid Application Deadline				
Need Analysis Form Deadline				
Need Analysis Form Sent				
CAMPUS TOURS				
Contacted College to Request Tour				
Date of Campus Tour				
Thank you Letter Sent				
ADMISSIONS NOTIFICATION				
Candidate Notification Date				
Date Admission Letter(s) sent				
Admission Decision: Acceptance, Denial or Wait-List?				
Notified Counselor About Admission Decisions				
College You Plan to Attend Notified of Intent to Enroll by May 1 st				
Candidate's Reply Date				
Declined All Other Offers of Admission by May 1 st				
DEPOSITS				
Date Deposit is Due At College of Choice				
Deposit Sent to College				
Deposit Received by College				
HOUSING FORMS				
Date Housing Deposit is Due				
Date Sent to College				
Deposit Received by College				

THE APPLICATION PROCESS AT ASK

Student Responsibility

1. Send application on-line whenever possible
2. Make sure you have asked for your recommendations from teachers and counselor at least two weeks before they are needed. It is best to make arrangements for recommendations in October or November. Three is the normal number of recommendations needed.
3. Bring the Secondary School Report to the Counselor at least one week before it is needed. Make sure that you have filled out the top portion with your name and address. Also sign your name.
4. Make an appointment with the counselor by filling out the green request form, which can be obtained through the counseling secretary. On this form indicate the colleges where your information is to be sent.
6. Bring the necessary forms and the money needed to send the recommendations and transcripts through the school. Also bring the money required for the application fee if you have not paid on line. This must be paid in the currency of the country in which you are applying and must be either a check or money order. **No application will be sent unless the student is present for mailing.**
7. Don't forget to contact SAT if you need a score report sent.
8. Check to see if your college requires an interview. Contact the college to make arrangements for the interview.
9. Inform the guidance office of all admission decisions as soon as you receive them.

Counselor Responsibility

1. The counselor will prepare school recommendation. This recommendation will give an overview of the student. It will include information about academics, extracurricular activities, and a sense of the character of the applicant.
2. The counselor will keep all teacher recommendations in your file. The originals will be kept until the end of the academic year. After this they they will become a part of your permanent file.
3. The counselor will print transcripts and insure that they are sent to the requested colleges.
4. The School Profile will be included with all applications. This form provides information about ASK so others will have educational data about the school that you have been attending.

The Complete Package

I will package student's documents and prepare for mailing. Students are to be present to verify the materials put in the envelope.

Each package will contain:

1. Completed application form with fee if not sent on line.
2. Essay, if required.
3. Financial verification if needed.
4. Secondary School Report (if college provides one) with counselor recommendation.
5. Teacher recommendations.
6. Official transcript
7. School profile

Student must pay 10KD for mailing expenses for each envelope. The counseling office must send all transcripts and recommendations.

****Note:** We do not make photocopies of applications

FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid is monetary assistance given to a student and his or her family to help meet the total cost of attending a college (tuition, room and board, living allowance). Financial aid funding comes from a variety of sources: the federal government, state government, private sources, banks, and the college itself. Financial aid can be both merit-based and/or need-based. Merit-based aid or scholarship money is awarded to students for such things as academic achievement and/or special talents and skills.

Most financial aid, however, is awarded on the basis of “need”. Most need-based aid comes from the federal government. U.S. citizens are eligible to apply for federal funds by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid Form (FAFSA). The information you provide on the FAFSA (income, assets, and expenses as documented on federal tax forms) is then used in a formula called Federal Methodology, resulting in a calculation called the Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

The EFC is the amount you and your family will be expected to contribute to your education. Your EFC is used to determine your “financial need” at a college. Your EFC is reported directly to the colleges and universities which you designated on your FAFSA. Need at a particular institution is determined by subtracting the EFC (what you and your family are expected to pay) from the total cost of attendance at a particular college. If there is a gap between what you are expected to contribute and what the college actually costs, you have financial “need”. Your financial aid award packages will vary from college to college depending on the gap between the total cost and your EFC. Your financial aid package will typically be a combination of grant/scholarship money, loans, and work. Never rule out any school based solely on the “sticker price”. If you qualify for aid, that school with the large “sticker price” just might provide you with a financial aid package that helps to make that college affordable.

In addition to the FAFSA, many colleges also require the College Scholarship Service’s PROFILE form and/or the colleges own financial aid form. It’s important that you check the financial aid policies, procedures and deadlines of each college on your list.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Federal financial aid and loan programs are available only to United States citizens, dual-nationals and permanent residents. Financial aid for international/foreign students is limited. International students should contact the financial aid office at each college of interest. Most international students are required to submit a Foreign Student's Financial Aid Application and Certification of Finances Form sponsored by the CSS. These forms are typically filled out by a bank or employer and inform the school that the family is financially able to pay the full amount of tuition, books and expenses for the student.

THE THREE TYPES OF FINANCIAL AID

GIFT AID: This is money that does not have to be repaid and is given in the form of scholarships and grants.

1. Scholarships are offered for a variety of reasons including: academic achievement, athletic ability, leadership, artistic talent, ethnic background and religious affiliation as well as others.
2. Grant money is typically offered on the basis of financial need.

LOANS: This type of aid is based on need and involves low-interest loans to students, which must be repaid

WORK: The student works at a job arranged by the college and the money earned goes towards the total cost of education.

THE STEPS TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID

1. Keep track of all deadlines! Each school has its own deadline for applications and financial aid forms. The earlier you send in your financial aid forms the more likely you are to receive the most assistance available. **FINANCIAL AID IS FIRST-COME FIRST-SERVED!!**
2. Contact each college on your list to request admission applications and financial aid forms. Let the college if you are applying as an international student or as a citizen of the United States. This ensures that you will receive the proper forms. If you are an international student you will need to request information about funding availability for non-US citizens. You should apply for financial aid at the same time you apply for admission.
3. The best source of information about financial aid availability, procedures, deadlines, and eligibility requirements is the Financial Aid Offices of the schools you are considering. Find out what forms are required: the FAFSA, PROFILE and/or the college's own institutional form.
4. To apply for federal student aid all US applicants must fill out the FAFSA form. These can be completed on-line or picked up at the Guidance Office. Complete and mail to the federal processing center of the US Department of Education as soon after January 1 as possible. The processing center will then make a determination of the student's eligibility for federal aid by applying a set of formulas called Federal Methodology, which takes into account income, assets, family size and other variable.
5. Your college might also require the College Scholarship PROFILE form in addition the FAFSA. The PROFILE is used to award nonfederal student aid funds such as institutionally or privately funded grants and scholarships. Applying for the PROFILE is like applying for the SAT. Pick up a registration form from the Guidance office in the fall or apply via the World Wide Web through collegeboard.org. You can also apply by fax or phone by contacting the College Scholarship Service. Fill out the registration form for the PROFILE as soon as you know where you will apply for admission. Unlike the FAFSA, there is a fee for registering for the PROFILE.
6. Within three to four weeks after you have sent the FAFSA form to the central processing center you will receive an SAR or Student Aid Report. This is simply a report of the information you provided on the FAFSA. Review the information and if necessary, make changes and return the SAR to be revised. A copy should be sent to each school that you have applied.
7. The result of the statistical analysis from the FAFSA form is what's called the (EFC) Expected Family Contribution. This is the amount of money the family is expected to contribute toward the student's education. This information is then sent along to colleges. If the college has its own institutional form they will use the additional information you provide to do their own analysis to determine how much of the demonstrated need the institution will be able to meet.

8. Once you contact the College Scholarship Service (CSS) and provide the information requested on the PROFILE form, CSS will then apply a formula to the information you provided to come up with an (EFC) Expected Family Contribution figure. This information will be sent to you and the colleges you have chosen to receive it. CSS will also send you a CSS Acknowledgement/Date Confirmation Report. Review this report to make sure the information is being sent to the schools and programs you have chosen.
9. Check to see if the colleges and universities in which you are interested require their own institutional or supplementary financial aid forms. Be aware of all deadlines and complete the forms well in advance of all stated deadlines.
10. If your parents are divorced, most institutions will require completion of the Divorced or Separated Parent's Statement. The parent responsible is the parent with whom you have lived for the past twelve months.
11. Take the time to search scholarships! Scholarships are available to students from a number of different sources and for a number of different reasons ranging from academic achievement to your special interests or hobbies. Check to see if your parents' employers or professional associations offer any scholarships. Sometimes scholarships are offered through your church. Check web sites for free scholarships searches but beware of those sites that charge a fee.
12. Around the same time you receive college acceptance letters you will also receive financial aid award letters. Make sure the information in the letters is accurate, and if necessary contact the financial aid offices to make changes. Your financial aid packages will most likely include a combination of grant or scholarship money, loan money and work-study. At this point you will need to take out the calculator to review and compare the various packages. When evaluating packages figure out how much of the package consists of "free" money (grants/scholarships) and how much money you are expected to borrow. You may accept all or part of the financial aid package offered. Remember to sign the financial aid award letter of the college you decide to attend and return it by the stated deadline. Decline all other financial aid award letters in writing.

FINANCIAL AID HINTS & SUGGESTIONS

- ➔ Make a copy of everything you send to the colleges.
- ➔ Send in all application materials and financial aid forms well in advance of the deadlines, the earlier the better. Many of the financial aid programs operate on a first come, first-serve basis.
- ➔ When filling out the forms write your name the exact same way on each form.
- ➔ Complete all forms completely. Never leave anything blank.
- ➔ Never rule out a school that seems financially out of reach because that school just might be able to provide the funding to make it affordable.
- ➔ If you have any questions about the financial aid procedures or questions when filling out the forms, the best source of information is the Financial Aid Offices of the colleges themselves.
- ➔ File out the FAFSA form as soon as possible after January 1st. The form cannot be completed before January 1st.
- ➔ Take time to research scholarship opportunities. You may qualify for scholarship money because of your academic achievement, special talents, religious affiliation, athletic abilities community activities or career plans.
- ➔ You should apply for financial aid at the same time you apply for admission.
- ➔ Applying for admission is not the same as applying for financial aid. To receive aid, you must apply for aid by filing the appropriate forms.
- ➔ If at any time during the financial aid process your family financial situation changes, contact the financial aid office immediately. They may be able to adjust your award.

HOW THE UCAS SYSTEM WORKS

JANUARY – AUGUST

Find out about

- the courses
- universities/colleges
- qualifications
- leisure facilities

AUGUST

Get UCAS form for British Council or counseling office.

SEPTEMBER – NOVEMBER

Fill in the form:

- Make your final choice up to six courses.
- Practice filling-in a copy of the form.
- Complete your form and keep a copy.
- Take enough time to get it right – but remember DEADLINES.
- Make sure referee has time to write your reference and look over your form.
- Send-in your completed application.

OCTOBER 15TH

First Deadline – form

- ONLY if applying to Oxford & Cambridge
- Note: Students cannot apply to both.

DECEMBER 15TH

Second Deadline

To be certain that each of your chosen universities or colleges will consider your application, you should submit your form-in by this date.

Offers & Interviews

- You may be contacted for more information.
- May be invited for an interview if you are in the UK.
- May be given “conditional offers” if still waiting for final grades.
- May be given “unconditional offers” if you have all the entry requirements.

MAY

Choose which offers to accept

- If you have been given “conditional offers” for places, you now have to make one “firm” choice
- You can also make 1 reserve or “insurance” choice.

MAY 15th

Third Deadline

- You must send final firm and insurance offer decisions to UCAS.

AUGUST

Confirmation of offers

- Offers confirmed depending on exam results.

LATE AUGUST

Clearing

- Unsuccessful applicants may be offered last-minute places on other courses

HIGHER EDUCATION IN CANADA

National Education System

The ten provinces of Canada are independent in matters of education, although the federal government is involved in the financial support of post-secondary institutions. As a further complication, the entrance requirements to institutions of higher education are the prerogative of the institutions; so no hard and fast rules can be laid down. In practice, the admission requirements are usually expressed in terms of the school-leaving certificates of the province in which the university is located. There are no nationwide admission tests, nor do individual universities administer their own admission tests. Requirements vary from one program to another, and it may be necessary to take additional courses before being admitted to the program of choice. English is the language of instruction at the majority of universities, though some use French, while others offer programs in English and French.

Some Institutions of Higher Education

- University of Alberta, Edmonton, Alberta T6G2M7
- McGill University, 845 Sherbrooke St. W., Montreal, Quebec, H3A 2T5
- University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 6N5
- University of Quebec, 2875 Boulevard Laurier, Quebec, Quebec G1V 2M3
- University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario M5S 1A1

Other Useful Addresses

Canadian Bureau of International Education (CBIE)
85 Albert Street
Suite 1400, Ottawa
Ontario K1P 6A4

Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC)
151 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario, K1P 5N1

University Entrance Procedure

General information on programs for foreign students wishing to study at Canadian universities; application forms and details on admission requirements are only available from the universities.

EGYPTIAN UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES

- ➔ A student must pass 8 subjects in class 12 equal to One Credit. The student may complete some of these subjects though class 11 with a maximum of three subjects, in addition to passing the exams of SAT I and SAT II.
- ➔ The acceptable minimum marks for SAT is 900
- ➔ A desired Faculty requires that an applicant should pass (2) qualifying subject in SAT II exams, on condition that getting 900 marks in each according to the following:
- ➔ Admission to one of the Faculties of Medicine, Pharmacy, Dentistry, and Physical Therapy, requires passing (2) subjects in SAT II. Biology is a must, and the other can be either Physics or Chemistry.
- ➔ Admission to one of the Faculties of Engineering or Computer and Information requires passing (2) subjects in SAT II, Maths (including Mechanics)
- ➔ Admission to other faculties requires passing (2) subjects in SAT II exams according to the subjects recommended by that particular faculty. (Subjects that are qualifying to admission).
- ➔ The nominal total is the basis of preference among students applying to the admission office. The nominal grand total is worked out as follows:
One Third (1/3) of the grand total obtained in the 8 subjects, studied in the American High School + Two Thirds (2/3) of the total mark in the SAT I exams.

LEBANESE REQUIREMENTS

A student who is a Lebanese citizen must take the SAT I and three SAT II tests to gain admission to the Lebanese University.

For more information concerning Lebanese University entrance requirements contact:

Leila Saleeby Dagher, Director of Admissions
Lebanese American University
PO Box 13-5053
Beirut, Lebanon

The American University in Cairo

Office of Enrollment Services

American High School Diploma Requirements

1. Students will be evaluated using a combination of both the high school grade point average (GPA) and the results of one of the following standardized tests: SAT I or ACT-E.
2. The estimated SAT composite cut-off score is 900. An applicant must submit complete transcripts, including class rank, a copy of the high school diploma, and results of either the SAT I or ACT-E exams.
3. Students who spent less than one and a half years at an accredited American High School must submit SAT II results in two subjects of their choice. A total score of 1100 is required, with a minimum score of 500 on each subject.
4. Students who have taken Advanced Placement (AP) courses and exams may be granted transfer credit. However, students will not receive additional points added to their GPA.
5. Preference in admission will be given to students who have completed the American Diploma in 12 years of Education.
6. Engineering – American High School Diploma
The applicant must have taken Advanced Math, Physics and Chemistry. Advanced Math and Physics must be covered in Grade 12, while Chemistry could be taken in Grade 11 or 12. A score of SAT I Math above 600 is recommended.

UNIVERSITY OF KUWAIT REQUIREMENTS

WHO CAN ATTEND?

About 93% of the students are Kuwaitis citizens. Five percent of the seats are open to citizens of other G.C.C. countries, 1% are open to students from Egypt, Pakistan, Syria, Iran, Lebanon and the Islamic republics of the former USSR who are currently residents in Kuwait OR the sons and daughters of people who provided substantial services to the State of Kuwait and 1% of the seats are open to the children of faculty members and diplomats attached to the embassies here.

WHEN TO APPLY?

Students should make an application even though final grades have not been awarded. Usually a senior from an American type high school will graduate about June 1st and then apply in July of any year. You can apply in December for the February intake OR in July for the September intake.

WHAT CAN I STUDY?

The university is divided into nine colleges. At present there are about 35 majors.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The University of Kuwait is not an open-enrollment university. In almost every college of the department it is necessary that the student take and complete Arabic in high school. The grade should be a "C" or better. Likewise to be admitted to Medicine (3.0 GPA), Science, Engineering and Petroleum majors the student has to have a "C" or better in these classes:

Chemistry Physics Geometry or Algebra II Pre-Calculus or
Calculus

The Science College is taught in English. The College of Education and Arts has classes taught in Arabic. You would need to know Arabic to attend the University.

At Kuwait University certain colleges are classified as “science” colleges, which require the incoming students to have successfully completed a set of “science” courses as part of their high-school curriculum. The “science” colleges include the following colleges: The College of Engineering, the College of Science, the College of Allied Health, the Medical College, the Dental School, the College of Pharmacy, and the natural science majors in the College of Education. To qualify to apply to one of these colleges, a student must successfully complete the following courses:

1. Physics At the Eleventh-grade level or higher.
2. Chemistry At the tenth-grade level or higher.
3. Algebra II At the tenth-grade level or higher.
4. Calculus or Pre-Calculus At the eleventh-grade level or higher.
5. Biology At the ninth-grade level or higher.

For students interested in applying to the College of Administrative Sciences, i.e. the business school, it is strongly recommended though not required that they study Calculus or Pre-Calculus. In general students should be advised to take advanced mathematics courses especially Calculus as doing so will improve their chances of being admitted to Kuwait University and once admitted, help them in their studies in their freshman year.

The University requires the students to take entrance examinations in English, mathematics, and Chemistry. The student’s scores in these exams are used, in conjunction with his/her GPA, to determine whether the student is granted or denied admission. This helps stabilize the differences in grading systems from one school system to another in Kuwait. These exams are offered by the University three times a year: in the middle of December, in the middle of March, and in the first week of July. The three exams are always held on Thursday starting at 8:00 AM and ending by 1:00 PM. The exact dates and other details are announced in the local papers about one to two weeks before the exams are held. Students are encouraged to take these exams as early as possible (11th graders are eligible) and as often as they desire. The University will use only the best results of these exams when determining the student’s admission.

You may find useful information by checking the Kuwait University website www.reg.kuniv.edu.kw.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS FOR COLLEGE ENTRANCE

Students seeking public higher education in California will have the same preparatory course requirements for admission for both the California State University and the University of California by 2003, thanks to an initiative announced today by the two systems.

The Minimum Requirements for Admission for the Classes of 2003 and 2004 are:

- English (College Preparatory) 4 years
- Mathematics (Algebra 1, Geometry, Algebra 2) 3 years
- United States History/Government 2 years
- Laboratory Science 2 years
- Foreign Language 2 years
- Visual and Performing Arts 1 year
- College Preparatory Electives 1 year
- SAT 1 Required; ACT Accepted

Examples of courses meeting the CSU Visual and Performing Arts requirement:

ART: introduction to art, art appreciation, art history, art theory, art design, drawing, painting, ceramics sculpture, studio art, life drawing, printmaking, museum studies, photography, art production, architectural design, ethnic art

DANCE: ballet, modern dance, dance performance, dance history, choreography and production, jazz dance, ethnic dance, dance improvisation

MUSIC: music appreciation, music history, band, (beginning, advanced, marching), percussion, ensemble, orchestra, choir, voice, music theory/harmony, instrument training (guitar, winds, strings, piano), glee, vocal ensemble, music lab

THEATER/DRAMA: drama, acting, directing, theater arts, history of theater, drama production

Examples of courses NOT meeting CUS Visual and Performing Arts requirement:

ART: graphic art, yearbook, drafting, architectural drafting/drawing, computer graphics, calligraphy, cartooning, basic crafts (jewelry, sewing, etc.) stained glass, advertising/fashion /interior design, furniture design, basic woods, plastics, silk screening, design crafts

DANCE: aerobic dance, drill team/marching dynamics, cheerleading, Recreational dance (folk, square, social) banner/flag/baton, other courses where the primary intent is fitness.

MUSIC: activities such as pep band that may not be a part of a regular music or band course

NOTES FROM YALE ON THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

Students and parents often look for a specific answer to the question If a candidate presents A, B, and C, will he or she be admitted? We estimate that 80% to 85% of the students who apply for admission to Yale are perfectly qualified to do the work here. Between two and three hundred in Yale's applicant pool in any year are so strong academically that their admission is scarcely ever in doubt. But the vast majority of our successful candidates sort themselves out for the rest because a lot of little things, when added up, tip the scale in their favor. The difference between a successful and an unsuccessful candidate at Yale is often painfully small. We wish it could be otherwise, but with applications increasing year by year for a fixed number of places, it is hard to picture a different scenario, one that is easier on students, parents, counselors, and admissions people.

What does matter in the admissions process? Grades and test scores provide a starting point for a committee discussion, but in the end it is the documents that attest to or describe a candidate's qualities – as a student, a person, and as a citizen of his or her school community that make the crucial difference. The Yale application, for example, asks for two essays whose scope is broad enough to accommodate most writers, for the vigorous self-promoters to soulful poets. We encourage students to represent themselves to us in a variety of ways, and we try to open to them all. The important thing is that candidates take the essays seriously and resolve to show us their best selves in their best work.

Teacher and counselor recommendations also provide valuable information. As the fine print says at the top of Yale's teacher recommendation forms, we prefer letter from eleventh and twelfth grade teachers of academic subjects. It is difficult to advise students who ask us which teacher should write the letter of recommendations, but a student should probably think first about how well a teacher knows him and then about the grade he earned in his or her course.

Just as teacher recommendations are meant to give the admissions committee a glimpse of what a student is like in the classroom, a counselor recommendation should provide us with a picture of the student's place in the class and in the larger school community. We depend on the counselor, for example, to help us in any way possible to assess the degree of difficulty of a candidate's program relative to other programs and to tell us what an extracurricular accomplishment means in the context of the extracurricular options available at the school.

In the end, everything matters. The good news is that so many little things figure in an admissions decision that it is fruitless to worry overmuch about any one of them. There is comfort in knowing, too, that for the best students, the little things usually do add up.

Interviews and Campus Visits

Many students who apply to Yale will have the opportunity to meet with a member of the Alumni Schools committee if one exists in their hometown. Once we receive Form I and Form 2 of the application, the candidate's name is sent to the alumni director of the local committee. The interview is assigned and the student contacted. Though not required, the interview does afford applicants the chance to talk to someone familiar with Yale and the admissions process. Students, for their part, can learn more about Yale and convey information about themselves that may be difficult to report using the paper application alone.

Interviews on campus are available from June to early December for students in the final year of high school. Senior Interviewers, who are current Yale students, conduct most of the interviews that take place in the Office of Undergraduate Admissions. We recommend that students who do interview on campus take advantage of the group information session and the tour, both of which can deliver far more about the school and the admissions process than an interviewer can in the time allowed.

Science & Ideas Education

Didn't get in? You're not alone Record applicants and fewer openings

The cell phone message from her grandmother brought the bad news: a rejection from California State Polytechnic University, one of her safety schools. Next came another safety, the University of California-San Diego. But when Alexis Guy, a high school senior in San Anselmo, California started getting letters from schools she cared about, She opened Berkeley's slender envelope herself, then Stanford's, the New York University's. The final blow came from Northwestern -her first choice. Commiserating with friends, Guy who works 30 hours a week, has a 3.9 grade point average, and edits her high school newspaper-had a hunch: "It seems like there are less spaces at colleges this year."

It's not a bad guess. Yes, the number of students vying for spots continues to rise, with some schools reporting as much as a tripling of applications over the past decade. But it's also true that a slew of selective colleges across the country have fewer spots to fill than they did last year. No, it's not a nefarious plot to drive teenagers(and their parents) to the brink of madness. It is just a matter of numbers. For several years, more students than expected have taken up these school's offers of admission, creating a space crunch on campus. Brandeis University in Massachusetts had 60 extra students matriculate last year: next year, it will have 85 fewer spots. The College of William and Mary in Virginia will have 60 fewer, Wisconsin's Lawrence University, 25 fewer. That might seem like a minor difference, but at smaller school the change can be significant. At Reed College in Oregon, the 47 fewer spaces meant that 1,731 applicants were vying for only 315 spots.

Cutbacks: Even colleges with the same number of spots are accepting fewer students. The University of Pennsylvania sent out 4,124 acceptance letters this year 199 fewer than last year. That's because, over the past five years, Penn's yield-the number of accepted students who decide to enroll-has risen from 48 percent to 56 percent.

Several factors have made selective colleges even more selective. Foremost is the "echo baby boom": The number of college age kids nationwide continues to swell. It has also become increasingly easy (and popular) for students to apply to several colleges, as more schools embrace online applications. At the same time, admissions officers are seeing and increase in high-scoring students from all parts of the country. Stanford's rejection letter informed students that the school received more than 19,000 applications for 2,200 places; of them 5,000 exceeded a 4.0 GPA and 3,000 scored over 1500 on their SAT's. Finally, as more students compete to get into top colleges, more highly qualified applicants are left vying for spaces in the next tier of schools, and the next one.

On top of all that, record numbers of students applied for early decision this year. Tufts University filled 45 percent of its freshman class early, compared with 26 percent 10 years ago. The same goes for dozens of other colleges, like the University of Richmond in Virginia and Hamilton in New York that means that by the time regular-admission students apply, the doors have already begun to close. "It's heartbreaking when they don't get in," says Michael Thorp, admissions director of Lawrence, where applications are reviewed so carefully that the staff ends up knowing applicant's hobbies by heart.

The good news-and yes, there is some-is that there are still lots of fine schools out there with reasonable admission rates. Dickinson College in Pennsylvania accepted 64 percent of 3,850 applicants: Earlham College in Indiana admitted 77 percent. But try consoling 17-year old Alexis Guy, an aspiring writer who is considering admission offers from five backup colleges, including George Washington University. Even her acceptances were tinged with bad news: She was admitted to Boston University but not to its prestigious school of communications." In the admissions process you start out optimistic, "says Guy, "and you end up despondent."

