

Selective College Admissions

Quick Reference

What does it mean to be selective?

Being selective means that the college looks at more than grades and test scores to determine a student's admission status.

Just as these colleges are selective, you should be selective in determining the colleges to which you will apply. Look for fit in these areas:

1. Academically
2. Geographically
3. Socially
4. Financially

Acceptance Rates

Selective colleges accept a relatively low percentage of their applications; this is called a college's acceptance rate.

Middle 50%

Colleges will also provide the middle 50% ACT/SAT scores for the previous freshman class. This statistic allows you to determine the middle range of test scores produced by 50% of the freshman class.

The Application Process

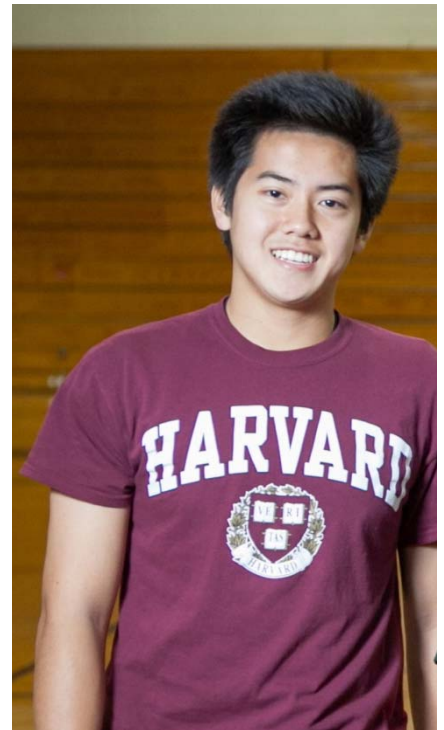
During the application process at selective colleges, you will be expected to submit the following:

- Application for admission (typically via the Common Application)
- Application fee or fee waiver
- High school transcript
- ACT (potentially with writing score) or SAT scores
- Essay(s) or short answer questions
- Interview
- Some colleges may require a supplemental form in addition to the application for admission

Selective colleges offer different admission processes, and you should decide which suits you best.

Non-Restrictive Application Plans

- **Regular Decision** – Students submit an application by specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period of time.
- **Rolling Admission** – Colleges review applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle
- **Early Action (EA)** – Students apply early and receive a decision well in advance of the college's regular response date.



Restrictive Application Plans

- **Early Decision (ED)** - Students make a commitment to a first-choice college where, if admitted, they definitely will enroll. Be careful - this plan is binding which means you make a commitment to enroll when you apply. The application deadline and decision deadline occur early. You may apply Early Decision to only one school.
- **Restrictive Early Action** - Students apply to a college of preference and receive a decision early. They may be restricted from applying ED or EA to other schools. If offered enrollment, they have until May 1 to confirm.

Some colleges consider an applicant's demonstrated interest when determining admission. Here are 8 ways to demonstrate interest in a college:

- Address why you want to attend that school in the supplemental essay
- Make a campus visit
- College interview
- College fair
- Contact your admission representative
- Send a thank you note
- Request additional information about the college
- Apply early

Financial Aid for Selective Colleges

1. **Apply for private scholarships.**

Check with your high school guidance counselor for private or outside scholarships. You can also check the Get2College website at www.get2college.org for scholarship lists.

2. **Most scholarships come directly from colleges.**

Research the college's scholarship and financial aid criteria as well as important priority deadlines. Many selective colleges ask students to complete the College Scholarship Service (CSS)/Financial Aid PROFILE™ to apply for institution funds. The PROFILE can be completed online at www.student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile after October 1 of your senior year.

3. **Complete the FAFSA to apply for Federal Financial Aid.**

The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is required to receive any federal funds. You must complete the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov and remember to check priority deadlines for colleges.

4. **Complete the Mississippi Financial Aid Application.**

Learn about the state grants and eligibility criteria at www.mississippi.edu/financialaid. The Mississippi Office of Student Financial Aid offers scholarship and grants based on merit and financial need. Remember that Mississippi grants can only be received if you attend a college or university in the state of Mississippi.