

RANKING THE SELECTIVITY OF COLLEGES

The Most Selective Colleges:

The schools in this category prefer students with averages above 95 and SAT's in the 700's in addition to a very strong academic program (AP and other challenging courses), varied extracurricular activities, and strong recommendations. For all schools listed below, even candidates with averages above 95 combined with high SAT scores are not guaranteed admission.

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Amherst</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Brown</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cal Tech</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Columbia Engineering</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Cornell** (7)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Dartmouth</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Deep Springs</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Duke</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Georgetown</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Harvard</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>M.I.T.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>London School of Economics</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Northwestern</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Princeton</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Stanford</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Swarthmore</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>U.C. Berkeley</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>U Penn</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Williams</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Yale</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>All BA/MD programs</i> | |

Very Selective Colleges:

Schools in this category prefer students with averages above 92 and SAT scores in the upper 600's and higher, combined with a very strong academic program and strong extracurricular activities and recommendations.

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|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Barnard *</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Boston College</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Brandeis</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Bowdoin*</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Carleton*</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Claremont-McKenna</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Colgate</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>College of William & Mary</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>The CooperUnion*</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Emory*</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Harvey Mudd</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Haverford*</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Johns Hopkins*</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Middlebury*</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>N.Y.U.**</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pomona*</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rice*</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Tufts*</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>U. Chicago*</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>U. of North Carolina*</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>U of Notre Dame</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>U. of Virginia*</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Vassar*</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Wake Forest</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Wash U in St. Louis*</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Wellesley*</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Wesleyan*</i> | |

*Increasingly selective;

**Individual colleges/programs have different admissions standards

Highly Selective Colleges:

Schools in this category prefer students with averages above 90 and very strong Standardized Test Scores.

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|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Babson</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>McGill (Canada)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>St. Mary's College</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Bates</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Oberlin</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>St. Olaf</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Boston University**</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Occidental</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>US Air Force Academy</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Bryn Mawr</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pepperdine</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>US Coast Guard Academy</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Bucknell</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Pitzer</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>US Military Academy</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Carnegie Mellon**</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Reed</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>US Naval Academy</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Case-Western Reserve</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>R.P.I.</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Union (non BA/MD)</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Colby</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Sarah Lawrence</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>U Michigan</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Connecticut College</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Scripps</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>U of Rochester</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Davidson</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Skidmore</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>USC</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>George Washington</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>St. Andrew's (Scotland)</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Vanderbilt</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Hamilton</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>St. John's</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Wash. & Lee U.</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Kenyon</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>University-(Pharm Program)</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Lawrence</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> <i>US Naval Academy</i> | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Lehigh</i> | | |

Selective Colleges:

Colleges that often accept students with averages of 87 – 90, strong standardized test scores, and strong recommendations and extra-curricular activities.

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|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bard | <input type="checkbox"/> Lafayette | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Delaware |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clarkson | <input type="checkbox"/> Loyola U in New Orleans | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Florida |
| <input type="checkbox"/> College of New Jersey | <input type="checkbox"/> Lynchberg College | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Iowa |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado College | <input type="checkbox"/> Macalester | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Illinois |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Denison Univ | <input type="checkbox"/> Manhattanville | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Maryland |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dickinson | <input type="checkbox"/> Marist | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Miami |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drew | <input type="checkbox"/> Michigan State | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Mass |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Earlham | <input type="checkbox"/> Muhlenberg | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Oregon |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eckerd | <input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Holyoke | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Pittsburgh |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fordham | <input type="checkbox"/> New College of Florida | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Richmond |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Franklin & Marshall | <input type="checkbox"/> Northeastern | <input type="checkbox"/> U of San Francisco |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Furman | <input type="checkbox"/> Prescott | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Santa Clara |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gettysburg | <input type="checkbox"/> Siena | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Texas-Austin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Goucher | <input type="checkbox"/> Smith | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Toronto |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grinnell | <input type="checkbox"/> Spelman | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Washington |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hampshire | <input type="checkbox"/> Susquehanna | <input type="checkbox"/> Villanova |
| <input type="checkbox"/> IIT | <input type="checkbox"/> Syracuse** | <input type="checkbox"/> Whitman |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indiana University | <input type="checkbox"/> Trinity College | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ithaca | <input type="checkbox"/> Tulane | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kalamazoo | | |

Colleges That Often Accept Averages of 80 and above:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adelphi | <input type="checkbox"/> Alfred |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allegheny | <input type="checkbox"/> American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antioch | <input type="checkbox"/> Beloit |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bennington | <input type="checkbox"/> C.W. Post |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Clark | <input type="checkbox"/> Clemson |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Drexel | <input type="checkbox"/> Eugene Lang (New School) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fairleigh Dickinson | <input type="checkbox"/> Georgia Inst of Tech |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hofstra | <input type="checkbox"/> Howard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Long Island Univ | <input type="checkbox"/> Manhattan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Morehouse | <input type="checkbox"/> New York Inst of Tech |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NYU Polytechnic | <input type="checkbox"/> Pace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Rochester Inst of Tech | <input type="checkbox"/> Rutgers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> St. John's Univ | <input type="checkbox"/> Stevens Inst of Tech |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Temple | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Arizona |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U of Colorado | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Conn |
| <input type="checkbox"/> U of Vermont | <input type="checkbox"/> U of Wisconsin |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wagner | |

COLLEGE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

Here is a sample checklist; colleges may ask for items such as:

YES NOT YET

1. I have taken the SAT I Reasoning Test.
2. I have taken all of the necessary SAT II Subject Tests.
3. I have taken the ACT Plus Writing
4. I have sent my standardized test scores to all of the colleges to which I am applying.
5. I have filled out the SSR Background Questionnaire online.
6. If applying Early Action or Early Decision, I have entered my choice(s) online.
7. I have filled out my College Advisement Worksheet online.
8. I have met with my college counselor.
9. I read the College Office Bulletins for college/scholarship information.
10. I know the deadlines for submitting all of my college applications.
11. I know the College Office deadlines that must be met to process my applications on time.
12. I have written (and revised) my essays.
13. I have completed my SSR Update Sheet online.
14. I have checked my high school transcript carefully and submitted necessary corrections.
15. My family and I have completed all required financial aid forms such as the CSS profile, FAFSA, and TAP forms.
16. Two teachers have agreed to write letters of recommendation for me.