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References
College Board www.collegeboard.com
OffToCollege http://www.offtocollege.com/
Trinity Catholic High School, Newton, MA http://www.trinitycatholic.com/Home.html
Chapter 1. University and College Counseling at TFPS

The Role of the Guidance Counselor

College counseling is an area within the Bilingual Department in TFPS. The Guidance Counselor office in Bilingual Department in TFPS works with high school students who plan to apply for schools in the United States. The Guidance Counselor works closely with each student through the college admission process.

The Guidance Counselor in TFPS is responsible for administering all aspects of the college search and admissions process, as well as the career development curriculum and mental health counseling, including the following:

- Implement the high school guidance curriculum presented systematically through classroom activities.
- Educating students and parents about colleges, the college admissions process, trends, procedures, and testing; advising and supporting seniors and families as they go through the process; and helping students and families aspire realistically and choose wisely.
- Asking the students to perform several assessment tests and aptitude tests and help them determine their strength areas starts from Sophomore year (10th grade). This is one of the most important parts of the guidance counselor job description, as helping students figure out what they are good at is a tough, but crucial task. The guidance counselor helps students figure out their areas of interest and what exactly they are good at.
- Meeting with juniors and seniors, individually and in groups, to talk about process and individual college choices. Keeping and maintaining each senior applicant profile.
- Meeting with all college admissions representatives who visit our campus and facilitating meetings between college representatives and our students. The Guidance Counselor also serves as a liaison with College admissions offices throughout the year.
- Arrange National College Fair visiting and Campus visiting in the United States. College Fairs are often held in the fall for seniors and in the spring for juniors.
- Working with Registrar to maintain records on seniors, including GPA's and transcripts.
- Writing an official school recommendation for each senior. To do so, the Counselor gathers information from parents, teachers, school records, and students themselves. The College Counselor also completes all School Report and mid-year report forms requested by colleges.
- Updating an annual College Planning Handbook, a resource mailed to junior and senior parents each summer, an extensive assembly of information about the college search process. The Guidance Counselor also keeps parents informed through a monthly newsletter, a newsletter for parents, and in letters about test dates, college events, and application related information.
- Maintaining the School Profile.
- Keeping track of admission decisions, statistics, and making a report to the Head of Bilingual Department.
Making informational presentations to parents, such as the annual presentations to parents of 10th graders, parents of juniors, new parents, and the Parents' Association.

- Maintaining and disseminating information about standardized tests such as SAT, and TOEFL.
- Being aware of issues and trends in college admission, higher education, testing, as well as keeping up-to-date about specific colleges and maintaining membership in professional organizations: the College Board, the National Association of College Admission Counselors, and the New England Association of College Admission Counselors.
- Arrange workshops on college essay writing, test-taking skills...etc.
- Work with other school professionals to help identify the developmental and learning needs of students.
- Conduct structured, goal-oriented counseling sessions in response to identified needs of individual students.
- Consult with and serve as a resource for teachers, staff, and parents regarding the developmental needs of students.

**Student Responsibility**

The role of councilor was made clear on the previous page but what is the responsibility of the student in the college admission process?

**Student Responsibility**

1. Complete a thorough and a realistic search for appropriate colleges and universities. Go through the detail checklist. Don’t take shortcuts. Open minded and look high and low. Talk to your counselor and consider all the criteria for selection in creating appropriate college lists.

2. Choose reasonable schools where you can learn, live and grow appropriately. Select schools that will bring you happiness and stretch your mind. The search process determines your lists of schools and the schools to which you will apply. Consider MANY options and choices before deciding on the final list.

3. Know, understand and appreciate the fact that there are many, many fine schools to consider. There are over 1,800 four-year colleges and universities in the U.S. Counselors constantly preach the “Best-Fit” philosophy. The “best-fit” philosophy simply means that counselors are seeking the best for the student in terms of “student/institutional compatibility.”

4. Know yourself is important in the college admissions process. You need to question yourself, your values, ideals and aspirations. Where do you learn best, how do you learn best? Are you truly seeking an “intellectual” climate or are you just going to college? What is your career plan? Does it possibly include graduate school...etc.

5. Create a balanced list of “right-fit” schools. A balanced list of schools develops from a clear understanding of the difficulty in applying to all highly selective colleges and universities. A balanced list of schools will emerge from your own study of contributing factors, selection criteria and from surfing web sites and visiting schools.

6. Don’t give in to social and peer pressure. Parents are more likely to feel social pressure because of the prestige associated with highly selective college admissions. Stay positive and open minded!
Before You Apply:
You are responsible for researching and understanding the policies and procedures of each college or university regarding application fees, financial aid, scholarships, and housing. You should also be sure that you understand the policies of each college or university regarding deposits that you may be required to make before you enroll.

As You Apply:
You must complete all material that is required for application, and submit your application on or before the published deadlines. You should be the sole author of your application. You should seek the assistance of your guidance counselor early and throughout the application period. Follow the process recommended by your high school for filing college applications. It is your responsibility to arrange, if appropriate, for visits to and/or interviews at colleges of your choice.

As you Receive Your Admission Decisions
You must notify each college/university that accepts you whether you are accepting or rejecting its offer. You should make these notifications as soon as you have made a final decision as to the college that you wish to attend, but no later than May 1.

You may confirm your intention to enroll and, if required, submit a deposit to only one college or university. (The exception to this arises if you are put on a wait list by a college or university and are later admitted to that institution. You may accept the offer and send a deposit. However, you must immediately notify the college or university at which you previously indicated your intention to enroll, if applicable.)

If you are accepted under an early decision plan, you must promptly withdraw the applications submitted to other colleges and universities and make no additional applications. If you are an early decision candidate and are seeking financial aid, you need not withdraw other applications until you have received notification about financial aid.
International Students Applicants
How to Study in the United States

Applying to college in the United States can be exciting and challenging. It can also at times be frustrating. The key to a successful experience lies in careful planning and timely completion of the required steps.

Step 1: Think about Why You Want to Study in the United States

For example, many students come to the United States because of the diversity of educational opportunities available. There are more than 600 major fields of study offered at more than 3,800 colleges and universities. What are your reasons?

Step 2: Research College Opportunities

Answer questions about your needs and preferences, such as:

- What do I want to study?
- Where do I want to live?
- Is the institution located in a large city or a small town?
- How is the student life at a particular institution?
- How competitive is the admission process?

Create a list of U.S. colleges that meet these needs. CollegeBoard and Princeton Review websites can help.

Step 3: Visit an Overseas Educational Advising Center

Overseas Educational Advising Centers are located in major cities worldwide and are affiliated with the United States Information Services (USIS) and/or the United States Embassy. There you can find advisors and information to help you understand college searches, the admissions process, and financial aid opportunities. Overseas advisors are experienced and well-informed about American university systems and admissions procedures.

Overseas Educational Advising Center in Taiwan (according to College Board):

**AIT -Public Affairs Section**

Telephone: 2723-3959
Fax: 2725-2644
Email: application@mail.aft.org.tw
URL: www.educationusa.org.tw

Step 4: Apply to Colleges

Begin the application process as soon as you've decided which college best meets your needs, and start latest in September of your 12th grade year. Remember to send all required documents and forms as soon as possible. U.S. colleges usually review applications only when everything has been received.
Chapter 2. The College Planning Calendar

Fall semester: Aug-Jan
Spring semester: Feb-June

Freshmen & Sophomore Year Calendar
Concentrate on academic preparation and continue to develop basic skills and extra-curricular and co-curricular interests. Prepare for the Entrance Exam: SAT, TOEFL

September-October
• Sign up, if you have not done so already, for extra-curricular, co-curricular activities that interests you. The level of involvement and accomplishment is most important, not the number of activities.
• Keep a record of your involvement, volunteer work, and employment (all year).

November-December
• Prepare for the Entrance Exam: SAT, TOEFL
• Make sure you are "on top" of your academic work. If necessary, meet with your teacher for additional help.
• Save your best work in academic courses and the arts for your academic portfolio (all year).
• Get to know your high school guidance counselor Ms. Lin
• Explore careers you find interesting
• Evaluate your personality, interest, skills
• Participate in extracurricular activities
• Start to understand the college planning process

January
• Keep studying! Keep track of your GPA and class rank.
• Volunteering is a great way to identify your interests and to develop skills.
• Participate in school and community activities. Give yourself the chance to expand on your talents, develop socially, and acquire some leadership skills.

February
• It is never too early to start researching colleges and universities. Visit the guidance office to browse through literature and guidebooks or surf the Web and check out college and university home pages.

March-May
• Be sure to continue to challenge yourself academically.
• Plan now for wise use of your summer. Consider taking a summer course or participating in a special program (e.g., for prospective engineers or journalists or for those interested in theatre or music). Consider working or volunteering.

June-August
• If you work, save some of your earnings for college.
• Make your summer productive. Continue reading to increase your vocabulary.
### Juniors Calendar (11th grade)
Juniors need to prepare for college entrance exams and explore possible career opportunities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
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</table>
| **August**        | ● Meet with your Guidance Counselor Ms. Lin  
                   ● Check TFPS graduation requirements and your academic record  
                   ● Familiarize yourself with important website, such as College Board and Princeton Review |
| **September**     | ● Focus on your academic work, time management, and study skills  
                   ● If applicable, register for the November SAT-II Chinese with Listening Test  
                   ● Make a commitment to one or more activities  
                   ● View some career and personal self-assessment tests to determine your aptitude and character for career opportunities. |
| **October-November** | Get ready for the college exam - Familiarize yourself with the different kinds of colleges and universities by attending college representative visits and fairs |
| **November**      | ● If applicable, register for the November SAT-II Chinese with Listening Test                                                   |
| **December-January** | ● Focus on your academic work, time management, and study skills.  
                   ● Attend TFPHP College Planning Session  
                   ● Make a commitment to one or more activities  
| **February-March** | ● Meet with your counselor to discuss initial college goals and plans  
                   ● **Register for the May/June SAT-I or SAT-II**  
                   ● Begin to build a long list of colleges and universities you are researching |
| **April**         | ● Meet with your counselor again to discuss the college admissions process  
                   ● Begin to break your college list down into “safeties”, “Probables”, and “Reach” schools  
                   ● **Register for the June SAT-II** |
| **May-June**      | ● Review college information with your counselor  
                   ● Reduce your list to 12-15 colleges for more serious consideration  
                   ● If you are planning to travel during the summer, arrange visits to colleges.  
                   ● Take the SAT I or II, or both in consecutive months |
| **July-August**   | ● Review college information. E-mail colleges requesting information pertaining to scholarships, financial aid, and special programs.  
                   ● Check which of your schools use the **Common Application**.  
                   ● Work on Common Application essays.  
                   ● Plan for a healthy balance in your senior year by taking a realistic look at your college application plans and your school and life commitments.  
                   ● Talk to Ms. Lin if you plan to apply for Early Action/Early Decision |
## Senior Calendar (12th grade)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Timeline</th>
<th>Tasks</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Summer months     | • Study college exams: SAT I, II & TOEFL  
• Double check TFPS graduation requirements and your school transcript  
• Visit colleges that interest you. Get the campus tour schedule. Arrange an on-campus interview with an admission representative.  
• Create a resume — a list of your accomplishments, activities and work experiences. Your resume can help you complete your applications and essays.  
• Keep a college calendar of all admission deadlines.  
• Register early for fall test dates for the SAT® and SAT Subject Tests™.  
  **Important deadline:**  
  **Early Admission:** deadlines are in October - November  
  **Regular Admissions:** deadlines are in early January – February  
  Nov. 1-Nov.30 for UC system (University of California) |
| September         | **Comparing and selecting your colleges**  
• Talk with your parents and guidance counselor Ms. Lin about college selection  
• Comparing and selecting your colleges, start to make a list  
• Register for the October and/or November SAT I or SAT II exams on Collegeboard  
  [http://sat.collegeboard.com/register](http://sat.collegeboard.com/register)  
• Ask two teachers to write letters of recommendation  
• Attend college representative visits or college fair  
• Begin working on your college essays. Think of topics that focus on your experiences and make you stand out from the crowd. |
| October           | **Preparing your college application**  
• Continue to meet with your counselor and create a final list of colleges (Be sure you list "safety" colleges, as well as “probable” and "reach" colleges.)  
• Note all deadlines for completing and mailing all application documents  
• Request official test score reports to be sent to colleges from test agencies  
• Take the October SAT I or SAT II  
• Take the TOEFL test  
• Register for the December SAT I or SAT II if needed  
• Complete CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE on Collegeboard if you want to apply for scholarship.  
• Submit early decision/early action/priority application  
• College Essay – turn in one draft of essay to advisor/English teacher and one other English native speaker for editing  
• Ask your counselor, teachers/faculty for letters of recommendation. Give them plenty of time to meet your deadlines and be sure to provide them with stamped and addressed envelopes.  
• If you take the SAT or SAT Subject Tests this month, make sure your scores are sent to each of your colleges. |
### November

**Complete and submit your college applications**

- Take the SAT I or SAT II
- Complete all application Materials – verify that all necessary information for schools is complete *(transcripts, essays, letters of recommendations,)*
- Final list of all colleges
- For those who did early submission: check with your colleges to make sure they have all of the information. Early admission notices will start to arrive next month.
- Work hard at completing your college essays. Proofread them rigorously for mistakes.
- Follow up to ensure that letters of recommendation are sent on time to meet your deadlines.
- Send applications as early as possible for colleges with rolling deadlines (that is, admission decisions are made as applications are received).
- If you take the SAT or SAT Subject Tests this month, make sure your scores are sent to each of your colleges.

**December**

- Take the SAT I or SAT II if needed
- Notify your counselor when you hear of any Early Decision/Early Action or priority decisions.
- Try to wrap up college applications before winter break. Make copies of each application before you send it.

**January**

*Your college applications should be completed and ready for regular submission. These deadlines are usually in January for the Fall semester. You should now focus your time on getting the financial aid you need to pay for college.*

- Send your applications to schools with a Feb. 1 deadline
- Apply for official first-semester grades to colleges that require a midyear grade report.

**February**

- Submit all remaining applications according to the college deadlines
- Continue to research your college choices and contemplate any revised order of preference when admissions notification are received
- Contact your colleges and confirm that all necessary application materials have been received.
- Continue to perform well in school and don't get senioritis; colleges want to see strong second-semester grades.

**March-May**

- Notify your counselor as soon as possible when you receive admissions decisions (admitted, not admitted, or wait-listed)
- Reply to your final U.S college choice by May 1 about your decision
- Inform all other colleges that you will attend another institution and tell your counselor of your decision

**June**

- Send your official final transcript to your chosen college.
- Check your summer mail for college information regarding housing, medical records requests, new student orientation, or course registration
- Begin the visa process and discuss with your counselor
- Prepare for great change and some of the best years of your life
私立復興實驗高級中學 申請美國大學入學考試時程表
修訂時間 99 年 12 月 7 日

雙語部學生參加美國升學考試 SAT I 、SAT II 及 TOEFL iBT 訂定考試時程表

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>正式 SAT 考試時間*</th>
<th>十一年級</th>
<th>十二年級</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>上學期</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>十月</td>
<td>第一次 TOEFL iBT 考試</td>
<td>第三次 SAT I 考試</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(學生自由選擇、視成績及欲申請學校而定，亦可不考)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>十一月</td>
<td>第一次 SAT I 考試</td>
<td>SAT I 或 SAT II 考試 **</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(學生自由選擇、視成績及欲申請學校而定，亦可不考)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>十二月</td>
<td>第一次 SAT II **</td>
<td>最後一次 SAT I 或 SAT II 考試**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(學生自由選擇、視成績及欲申請學校而定，亦可不考)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>下學期</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>一月</td>
<td>第一次 SAT II **</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>五月</td>
<td>第二次 SAT I 考試</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>六月</td>
<td>1. SAT I 或 SAT II 考試 **</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(學生自由選擇、視成績而定)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. TOEFL iBT 考試需達 100 分</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

多數美國大學不要求考 SAT subjects，然 Ivy Leagues 多要求 2 科 SAT Subjects 考試。為增加競爭力，因此要求學生除 SAT I 必要考試之外，另參與 SAT-II 正式考試。
* 正式考試時間以 College Board 公布時間為主，報名日期多為一個半月前。學生需自行上 College Board 網站註冊考試。
** 根據每所申請學校之 SAT II 要求考試科目不同，學生可於 English, History, Mathematics, Science, and Foreign languages 中任選擇兩項科目考試。
Who is involved in this Process? Who sends what?

| **Guidance Counselor** | • Provides information for testing dates  
|                        | • Coordinates College Representative visits  
|                        | • Support in GPA calculations and School Profile preparation  
|                        | • Assists students in college search process  
|                        | • Writes “Guidance Letter of Recommendation” |

| **Advisors** | • Assists students in compiling college resume  
|             | • Writes “Guidance Letter of Recommendation” (co-signed by the Guidance Counselor) |

| **Teacher/Faculty** | Available to write “Teacher Letters of Recommendation”.  
|                     | *Please be aware that you should not write the Recommendation Letters by yourself. Advisor/Teacher/Faculty may write your recommendation letters in Chinese then you can translate it into English with the authorization from the Advisor/Teacher/Faculty. |

| **Student** | Completes application forms (including Common Application), essays, application fee. Mail the application package along with recommendation letters, school profile, scholarship application and other relevant materials |
**Important Information for your Applications**

**CEEB Code**

**694372** TAIPEI FUHSING PRIVATE SCHOOL

**Letters of Recommendation**

Please give teachers/faculty a MINIMUM of 2 weeks to complete a recommendation letter. The more time you give them the better.

You MUST request your letters in person.

Be sure to offer those you ask your Brief Self-Evaluation.

請自行向福利社購買學校正式空白信紙，作為推薦函寫作使用。

*(Please see this Handbook Chapter 4 for more information)*

**Transcripts**

請向教務處申請正式成績單並付費。
# Abbreviations and Commonly Used Terms

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abbreviation</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>AP</td>
<td>Advanced Placement. These are college-level courses offered in the high school setting. TFPS does not offer AP classes so far.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Board</td>
<td>A national agency that is in charge of many tests and services connected with the college admissions process. It is the parent company for PSAT, SAT I, SAT II, and AP tests.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College Rep visits</td>
<td>A number of college representatives come to visit TFPS during the fall semester. Seniors are allowed to meet with these representatives on the designated days to find out more information about a specific school or ask more specific questions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CSS/Financial Aid Profile</td>
<td>Financial Aid program offered by the College Board. Most colleges now accept this form of aid application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Action</td>
<td>This option is like Early Decision, however, is NOT binding like some Early Decision schools are. You will hear from Early Action schools earlier than Regular Decision schools, however, acceptance will not be binding. Early Action deadlines are often in early November.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Decision</td>
<td>This option is for students who have a definitive top college in mind. “Early Decision” is a way to let that school know that it is your first choice. Many colleges make applying Early Decision “Binding.” This means that if you are accepted to this college, you are required to go there. You must talk with the Guidance Counselor if you are planning on applying Early Decision to a school. Early Decision deadlines are often in early November. If you are not accepted under Early Decision, you can defer to regular admissions.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAFSA</td>
<td>Free Application for Federal Student Aid (U.S. citizens only). A detailed review of the family’s income and assets. Completing this gives students access to Federal student monies.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rolling Admission</td>
<td>There is no specific application deadline. Applications are reviewed as they are received, and decisions are made within 6-8 weeks. Although there is no specific deadline, students are encouraged to apply early to these schools.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT I</td>
<td>Scholastic Assessment Test. This test is required for admission into many colleges. It is the same format of the PSAT (Pre-Scholastic Assessment Test): Critical Reading, Math, and Writing. Each test is out of 800, totaling a possible 2400 points.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SAT II</td>
<td>Subject Tests. There tests cover a variety of academic subjects and are designed to test your level of knowledge. Some colleges may request specific subject tests according to their admissions requirements. Like the SAT I test, SAT II tests are scored out of 800. Be aware of the test dates. Not All subjects are given on every testing date.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOEFL</td>
<td>Test of English as a Foreign Language. Required for all international students.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 3. College Search
Finding the right college and program

Getting Started:
Always start with what you know! That adage may serve you well at the beginning but you need to proceed from that place and be open minded about your choices and selections. You probably have a few ideas in mind already and you know people (including your parents) that went to certain colleges or universities. Therefore, you can start by thinking about these schools and others that you have heard about. The trick is to NOT STOP with those schools because there are hundreds, if not thousands, of other schools to consider.

Understand Types of Schools

Which Type Suits You Best?
What kind of college do you see yourself attending? Different types of colleges suit different types of people. Take a look at these descriptions to help you see where you fit.

◆ Liberal Arts Colleges
Liberal arts colleges offer a broad base of courses in the humanities, social sciences, and sciences. Most are private and focus mainly on undergraduate students. Classes tend to be small and personal attention is available.

◆ Universities
Generally, a university is bigger than a college and offers more majors and research facilities. Class size often reflects institutional size and some classes may taught by graduate students.

◆ Community or Junior Colleges
Community colleges offer a degree after the completion of two years of full-time study. They frequently offer technical programs that prepare you for immediate entry into the job market.

◆ Upper-Division Schools
Upper-division schools offer the last two years of undergraduate study, usually in specialized programs leading to a bachelor's degree. You’d generally transfer to an upper-division college after completing an associate's degree or after finishing a second year of study at a four-year college.

◆ Agricultural, Technical, and Specialized Colleges
Have you made a clear decision about what you want to do with your life? Specialized colleges emphasize preparation for specific careers. Examples include Art/Music, Bible, Business, Health Science, Seminary/Rabbinical, and Teaching.

◆ Public vs. Private
On the one hand, public colleges are usually less expensive, particularly for in-state residents. They get most of their money from the state or local government. Check out your state's Guide to Residency. Private colleges rely on tuition, fees, endowments, and other private sources. On the other hand, private colleges are usually smaller and can offer more personalized attention (and some believe, more prestige).
Bottom Line: What’s right for you depends on your situation and goals.

Tips for Finding Your College Match

How to pick a College

● Type of School Certificate/Professional Programs
  Two Year Colleges
  Four Year Colleges

● Location
  New England
  Midatlantic
  South
  Southwest
  Midwest
  West Coast
  International

● Campus Setting
  Urban
  Suburban
  Rural

● Size small:
  2,000 or under
  mid-size: 2,000-15,000
  large: 15,000 +

● Financial

How can you find colleges that match your needs? First, identify your priorities. Next, carefully research the characteristics of a range of schools. Finally, match the two. Here are some college characteristics you should consider.

◆ Size of the Student Body
Size will affect many of your opportunities and experiences, including:

- Range of academic majors offered
- Extracurricular possibilities
- Amount of personal attention you’ll receive
- Number of books in the library

When considering size, be very sure to look beyond the raw number of students attending. For example, perhaps you’re considering a small department within a large school. Investigate not just the number of faculty members, but also how accessible they are to students.

◆ Location
Do you want to visit home frequently, or do you see this as a time to experience a new part of the country? Perhaps you like an urban environment with access to museums, ethnic food, or major league ball games. Or maybe you hope for easy access to the outdoors or the serenity of a small town.
◆ **Academic Programs**
If you know what you want to study, research reputations of academic departments by talking to people in the fields that interest you. If you're undecided, relax and pick an academically balanced institution that offers a range of majors and programs. Most colleges offer counseling to help you find a focus.

In considering academic programs, pick a school that offers many possibilities.

◆ **Campus Life**
Consider what your college life will be like beyond the classroom. Aim for a balance between academics, activities, and social life. Before choosing a college, learn the answers to these questions:

- What extracurricular activities, athletics, and special interest groups are available?
- Does the community around the college offer interesting outlets for students?
- Are students welcomed by the community?
- Is there an ethnic or religious group in which to take part?
- How do fraternities and sororities influence campus life?
- Is housing guaranteed?
- How are dorms assigned?

◆ **Cost**
Today's college price tag makes cost an important consideration for most students. At the same time, virtually all colleges work to ensure that academically qualified students from every economic circumstance can find financial aid that allows them to attend. In considering cost, look beyond the price tag.

◆ **Diversity**
Explore what you might gain from a diverse student body. Think about the geographic, ethnic, racial, and religious diversity of the students as a means of learning more about the world. Investigate what kinds of student organizations, or other groups with ethnic or religious foundations, are active and visible on campus.

◆ **Retention and Graduation Rates**
One of the best ways to measure a school's quality and the satisfaction of its students is to learn the percent of students who return after the first year and the percent of entering students who remain to graduate. Comparatively good retention and graduation rates are indicators that responsible academic, social, and financial support systems exist for most students.

◆ **Find Colleges**
Use [College Search](http://collegesearch.collegeboard.com/search/index.jsp) to research two-year and four-year schools and find the programs that meet your needs.
Easy Ways to Start Your College Search

Steps to Take to Find a Good College Fit

Getting started on anything is often the hardest part. Luckily, there are a number of easy ways to start finding colleges that are a good fit for your needs and interests.

The first thing to do is sit down and talk with your family. Tell them about the types of colleges you are interested in and what you may want to major in. Consider what they say — your family knows you well and may have good insights.

Your discussion should include asking your family members how much time they have to help you with the search and admission process. Be sure to ask about financial concerns that may affect your final list.

Once you’ve had this discussion, it’s time to start your search. Here are quick and easy things you can do today to begin.

◆ Read Your Mail

In the fall of your senior year, you're likely to receive loads of college brochures and e-mails. Reading this material helps you begin to learn about specific colleges — and it may also show you options you didn't know you had.

If you haven't been contacted by a college that you're interested in, go to its website and download or request a brochure. You can also tell colleges and scholarship programs you're interested in hearing from them by signing up for the free Student Search Service® on http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/reg/sss.html

◆ Make a College Wish List

List any college you'd like to attend, from the one on the beach to the one with the best academic reputation in your intended major. Include any nearby college. At this point, don't limit yourself. Just brainstorm.

◆ Meet with Your Counselor

Your counselor probably has experience sending students to the colleges you are considering. Meet to discuss your education and career goals, and how you can achieve them.

◆ Write Down What You Want or Need

Public or private? Local or far away? Think about who you are and what you're looking for in a college. Making a list of factors helps you determine what's most important. Use your preferences to search for colleges that suit your needs on College Search on College Board website.

◆ Talk to People Who Went to College

Get the perspective of teachers, relatives and friends who have already gone to college. Their personal experiences can give you insight into what college is all about. Ask college graduates about their alma mater, or talk to college students when they’re home for the holidays.
Research Colleges
Check out a college's profile on College Search on College Board website to get all the basic information, such as majors and sports offered, as well as admission requirements and deadlines. Then, check out the college's website to take a virtual tour, see the courses offered and contact students and the admission office.

Visit a Campus
Visit If you can, the best way to determine if you can feel at home at a college is to visit its campus. If you can’t travel to visit colleges, visit a college that's close to home or one that a friend or family member already attends. It doesn't even have to be one that you're interested in attending. Visiting helps you focus your preferences and may even make you think of needs you didn't know you had. Can't get to a campus? Take a virtual tour on the college's website.

Go to a College Fair and attend info sessions at Fuhsing
Find out if there's a college fair nearby. At the fair, you can pick up catalogs and talk to representatives and other students.

What Selectivity Means for You
Understanding Admissions Factors
College admissions officers across most of the nation report the same news: The number of applicants is rising, making admissions more competitive.

Why Are Applications Increasing?
The increase comes from a surge in births during the 1980s. Children of the baby boomers are coming of age. Experts predict applications will continue to rise faster than openings at most colleges, through about 2010. The availability of online applications and the current economic climate are also contributing to the increase.

"Most schools are a little more selective than they were maybe 10 years ago," says Joan Isaac-Mohr, vice president and dean of admissions at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. This can mean more pressure for students going through the application process.

Benefits of Increased Selectivity
There's a silver lining. As Isaac-Mohr points out, increased selectivity means better students are going to all colleges, broadening your choice of schools with a high-achieving student population.

President for enrollment at Rice University in Texas, agrees. "There are lots of schools where students can be happy and successful," she says. Both experts encourage students and parents to consider a range of schools, rather than focusing on a single institution.

Community colleges, for example, can allow you to spend two years improving grades or selecting a career focus before transferring to a four-year university. While you might be taught by a graduate student at a large university, teachers at community colleges are usually professors who primarily want to teach, not conduct research.
Smaller class sizes and more access to professors at small public or private colleges can be a boost to students, while some may prefer the energy and variety of a large university. It's important for you to determine your needs and academic interests and select 8 to 10 schools that make a good fit.

**What Are Colleges Looking For?**

As you prepare application materials, it can help to know what schools are really looking for in the piles of paperwork. Admissions officers evaluate applications in different ways, depending on how selective, or competitive, their college is.

**The Levels of Selectivity**

At one extreme are open admissions colleges. These schools require only a high school diploma and accept students on a first-come, first-served basis. Many community colleges have this policy. At the other extreme are very selective colleges. They admit only a small percentage of applicants each year. Most colleges fall somewhere in between.

- **Less Selective:** Less selective colleges focus on whether applicants meet minimum requirements and whether there's room for more students. Acceptable grades are often the only requirement beyond an interest in college study. The SAT® may be required, but test scores are usually used for course placement, not admissions.

- **Selective:** More selective colleges consider course work, grades, test scores, recommendations, and essays. The major factor may be whether you are ready for college-level study. It's possible to be denied admission because of a weakness or a lack of interest in higher education.

- **Very Selective:** As many as 10 or 15 students apply for each spot at very selective schools. Admissions officers look carefully at every aspect of a student's high school experience, from academic strength to test scores. Since many applicants are strong academically, other factors—such as your essay—are critical. Although they receive a great deal of publicity, only a small number of colleges are this selective.

**Admission Factors**

Selective colleges consider these factors for admission:

- Courses taken
- Counselor/teacher recommendations
- Ethnicity
- Grades
- Application questions and essays
- Geographic location
- Grade point average
- Personal interview
- Alumni relationship
- Rank in class
- Activities outside the classroom
- Major/college applied to
- Admission test results
- Special talents and skills

There's no general agreement about which of these factors are ranked more important. However, most admissions officers place the most weight on your high school record.
How Important Are Extracurricular Activities?
The significance of activities has been exaggerated. While schools do consider them, they're looking to see if you've shown a long-term commitment in one or two areas.

Need-Blind Admissions
Most colleges have a need-blind admissions policy. This means they decide whether to make an offer of admission without considering your family's financial situation.

Other colleges are need-sensitive; they do consider your family's financial situation in the admissions process. These colleges know they can't satisfy the financial aid needs of all applicants. Some schools use need-sensitive admissions when deciding to accept a borderline student or to pull a student off of the waiting list.

Matching Admissions Standards
As part of the college search, you should compare your academic and personal qualifications to those of students typically admitted to schools where you want to apply.

Create a College List

Track Colleges and Requirements
There’s an easy way to manage your personal college list online (My College List), all in one place — just use My Organizer on https://ecl.collegeboard.com/account/login.jsp?applicationId=0&destinationpage=https://myorganizer.collegeboard.com/my_organizer/MyOrganizer.jsp. Once you're signed up and signed in, you can create a list of colleges and track important application deadlines and activities.

How It Works
My College List on College Board is a free online tool that allows you to:

- Keep your college watch list — add or delete colleges at any time.
- Create and manage online applications for participating colleges.
- Access your information from any computer.
- Jump quickly to each college's website.
- Save notes, deadlines and reminders for each of your colleges.

How to Add Colleges to Your List
Use College Search on College Board. There's an "add to list" option next to each college's name (for example, in your search results).

How to Create Your College List on College Board
- Sign in to or create your College Board account.
- When you sign in, you'll be taken to My Organizer, a personalized start page with important tools and reminders.
Under the "My Colleges" tab, click on "College List."

**Finalizing Your College List: How Many College Applications?**

With so many colleges to choose from, you need to explore your options, narrow them down and decide which colleges are a good fit. To create your final list, you should identify colleges that have the educational programs you need, including ones where the campus life offers you the opportunities you want.

Keep in mind that there isn’t just one perfect college out there — you will probably find many that are a good fit for you. The goal is to apply only to colleges that meet your criteria; that way, you can reach your academic and personal goals at whichever one you choose to enroll in.

**Apply to a Range of Colleges**

College counselors generally recommend that your college list include **eight to ten colleges**. Some students submit fewer applications, others submit more.

To ensure you have options later, apply to a diverse range of colleges and be realistic about the strength of your applications. Here’s the breakdown:

- **One or two colleges you feel very confident about “Safeties”** — you think you can get in (you have a 90 to 100 percent chance) and you can afford to go there. These colleges are usually called "safeties."
- **Two to four colleges that are “Probables”** (you have at least a 75 percent chance of getting in). These are colleges that are both likely to accept you and close to what you are looking for.
- **One or two "Reach" colleges** (you have a 50 percent or less chance of getting in). These are colleges that present an admission challenge, but applying is well worth the try.

**Don’t Waste Time and Effort**

While there is no ideal number of applications you should send, remember that all applications take your time, energy and money. Try to avoid sending too many applications.

Instead, focus on the colleges you are the most interested in. There are several reasons to apply to only those colleges that you’re sure you want to attend:

- Applying to a large number of colleges can be expensive; each one has an application fee.
- Quality is better than quantity when it comes to college applications; there are many steps and each one must be done carefully.
- If you apply and you’re really not that interested in attending, you may be taking a spot away from another applicant who really wants to go to that college.

**Get Help**
You don’t have to figure this out alone. Your school counselor knows you and your academic history and can recommend good fits. Work with your counselor to determine the right number of colleges for you to apply to. You should also discuss your choices with your family and other people who know you well.

◆ List Making

Use the box below and make some extra copies as you research schools in the Spring of Grade 11 and the Fall of Grade 12. After you have started to discuss schools with your parents, friends, teachers and your counselor, you will be ready to begin creating lists. Make use of all available resources. Spend some time in the Guidance Office and use the Top 10 Websites for Seniors sheet.

The process of reaching and list-making is one of exploration, self-discovery and decision-making. Every time you locate a school, view their web site, page through their catalog or listen to the visiting admissions representative, you are making small but critical decisions. Your final decision will be much easier if you do the hard work during the early days of the process.

Your Goal:

By the end of May in the second semester of the 11th grade you should have completed this box below. The particular box consists of 24 items. By June of your Junior Year, you considered many schools, completed some exacting and thorough research, culled the list for less appropriate schools and cut the list down to your top 15. Now, with the help of your counselor you can place those 15 schools in particular categories.

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<tr>
<th>Safeties</th>
<th>Probables</th>
<th>Reach</th>
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International Students and U.S. Admissions Tests: Undergraduate Exams

Admissions tests give colleges a standard way to evaluate applicants. Be sure to verify which tests are required by the colleges that interest you.

**SAT Reasoning Test™ (SAT Subject Tests™ (Optional for some colleges but recommended))**

The SAT is a 3-hour-and-45-minute test that measures verbal and mathematical reasoning skills students have developed over time and skills they need to be successful in college. Many colleges and universities use the SAT® as one indicator among others—class rank, high school GPA, extracurricular activities, personal essay, and teacher recommendations—of a student's readiness to do college-level work.

**SAT Subject Tests™ (Optional for some colleges but highly recommended)**

Subject Tests are one-hour, mostly multiple-choice tests that measure how much students know about a particular academic subject and how well they can apply that knowledge. Subject Tests are given in areas such as English, math, and languages. You may be required to take one or more Subject Tests if applying to a selective college.

**Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) (required)**

TOEFL evaluates the English proficiency of people whose native language is not English. It measures your ability to understand North American English. It's generally required of undergraduates seeking a first degree and graduate students seeking an advanced degree. The TOEFL is offered at over 300 test centers around the world and the computer-based test may be scheduled at the convenience of the student. Learn more at www.toefl.org

**Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) Exams (Optional)**

Through AP Exams, you have the opportunity to earn credit or advanced standing at most of the United States' colleges and universities. Outside the U.S., universities in 27 countries recognize AP in their admissions processes. AP Exams are offered in 34 subjects during a two-week period in May.

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<tr>
<th>Test</th>
<th>Content</th>
<th>Test Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>SAT I</td>
<td>International students are not required to take the SAT or ACT, but it is HIGHLY recommended, if available. Please note that some of the schools in certain colleges/universities require the SAT of all applicants, including international students. The SAT doesn’t test logic or abstract reasoning. It tests the skills you’re learning in school: reading, writing and math. Your knowledge and skills in these subjects are important for success in college and throughout your life.</td>
<td>The SAT and other College Board tests are offered several times a year. Most students take the SAT for the first time during the spring of their junior year and a second time during the fall of their senior year.</td>
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The critical reading section includes reading passages and sentence completions.
- The writing section includes a short essay and multiple-choice questions on identifying errors and improving grammar and usage.
- The mathematics section includes questions on arithmetic operations, algebra, geometry, statistics and probability.

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<tr>
<th>SAT II (SAT Subject)</th>
<th>Subject Tests are hour-long, content-based tests that allow you to showcase achievement in specific subject areas where you excel. These are the only national admission tests where you choose the tests that best showcase your achievements and interests. There are 20 SAT Subject Tests in five general subject areas: English, History, Languages, Mathematics, Science.</th>
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<td>• Korean with Listening</td>
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You’ll want to take the tests that are required or recommended by the colleges that you’re interested in. Also consider subjects that you excel in or may want to major in, to showcase your strengths and interests.

The SAT and other College Board tests are offered several times a year. Most students take the SAT for the first time during the spring of their junior year and a second time during the fall of their senior year.

Register for SAT I and II tests: College Board Website [http://www.collegeboard.com/](http://www.collegeboard.com/)

SAT Taiwan representative contact information
Phone: (02) 2701-8008
Fax: (02) 2755-2822
Email: service@sat-taiwan.com.tw

TOEFL
The TOEFL iBT™ test, administered in an internet-based format, is an important part of your journey to study...
in an English-speaking country. The TOEFL iBT test measures your ability to use and understand English at the university level. And it evaluates how well you combine your listening, reading, speaking and writing skills to perform academic tasks.

More than 7,500 colleges, agencies and other institutions in over 130 countries accept TOEFL scores. The TOEFL test has more test dates (30 – 40) and locations than any other English-language test in the world. You can retake the test as many times as you wish.

Register for TOEFL iBT test: ETS Website http://www.ets.org/

請直接洽詢 LTTC 財團法人語言訓練測驗中心，詢問考試日期和場次。電話：02-2362-6385，分機 290

AP test
Fuhsing does not offer AP courses for Class 2012. Students should take the exams by arranging to test at a participating school. Call AP Services no later than March 1 to get the names and phone numbers of local AP coordinators. See Ms. Lin for further information.

Sending Official Scores

The official scores for the SAT and TOEFL are to be reported by YOU. You must arrange for the testing agency (Colleges Board and ETS) to send your scores directly to your designated colleges and universities. It is critical to understand what scores each college or university expects of its applicants in a given year. It is also very important to recognize that each college/universities must receive the official versions of those scores from the proper authority in a timely fashion.

SAT Study Guide: SAT Preparation Tips

To get a high score, one needs to do more than just develop strong math and verbal skills; one needs to work smart by making good strategic choices while working through the test. Here are some tips to help maximize test scores.

1. **Know The Format.** The test makers go to great lengths to make sure that every PSAT and SAT I contains the same question types, testing the same range of math and verbal skills. Take advantage of this fact by getting familiar with the questions that appear on the test and practice answering them.

2. **Learn The Directions.** Use every second during the test to answer questions and get points. Don't waste time on test day reading the directions. Pick up a student guide and get familiar with the directions before the test.

3. **Predict The Answer.** On the PSAT and SAT I, the surest way to avoid falling for traps on test day is to predict the answer before looking at the answer choices. For example, if answering an SAT Sentence Completion, don't just jump into the answer choices to see
which one fits; read the sentence, predict the missing work and scan the answer choices to see which one fits.

4. **Use the Order Of Difficulty.** On the PSAT and SAT I, often the Math and Sentence Completion questions are arranged in order of difficulty, (i.e. the questions get progressively harder as you work through each question set). Use this knowledge to plot strategy for each section; for example, consider spending extra time on early questions to make sure to net "easy" points.

5. **Skip Around.** Within any given section of the PSAT and SAT I, one may skip around and answer the questions in any order. If a particular question or passage is difficult, skip it; return to it later if there is time.

6. **Pace Yourself.** The SAT I and PSAT ask a lot of questions in a short period of time. To get through a whole section, it's important not to spend too much time on any one question. Get used to the pressure by practicing under timed conditions and keep a brisk pace throughout the test. Make sure to wear a watch as the test proctors do not always provide numerous time-checks.

7. **Guess.** Test takers often talk about a "guessing penalty" on the SAT. This is a misnomer; it's really a "wrong-answer penalty." Guess wrong and lose points. Guess right, and you gain. By eliminating one or more answers as definitely wrong, the odds of guessing the correct answer increases.

8. **Be Careful With The Answer Grid.** Even if every question is correctly answered on these tests, the score will undoubtedly be lower if it is gridded incorrectly. Be careful when inputting answers. One time-proven gridding strategy is to circle the answer for each question in the booklet as it is figured out, then transfer those answers to the answer grid in groups of five or more.

9. **Look for Quick Points If Time is Running Short.** Some questions can be answered more quickly than others. For instance, some reading questions ask to identify the meaning of a particular word in the passage. Questions such as these can often be answered quickly when time starts to run out at the end of a section.

10. **The Most Obvious Choice on Difficult Questions is Almost Always Wrong** - but it's not far off. When in doubt, look for the answer that is closest to the most obvious choice.

11. **The Correct Answer to Multiple-Choice Reading Comprehension Questions are Easily Defended Factual Statements or Carefully Worded Opinions.** Choices that use exclusive or extreme words (only, always, never, all, none) are rarely if ever correct, unless proceeded by a qualifier like "not," in which case they are almost always correct.
12. **When Asked to Compare Fractions, Turn Them Into Their Decimal Equivalents by Dividing the Top number by the Bottom Number (with a calculator!)** It's hard to know whether 6/15 is greater or less than 7/16 but it is easily compare their decimal equivalents. 6/15=.4 while 7/16=.4375. Clearly 7/16 is greater.

13. **Bring a Digital Watch** (it's easier to read) and a calculator (it's permitted).

(Reference: The Eduers.com)
Chapter 5. Admission Criteria for U.S. Colleges and Universities

College Application Requirements

Applications vary from college to college, but most require some or all of the following parts:

◆ Application Form
In the old days (well, a few years ago), you had one application option—a handwritten or typed form. Today you can often apply online directly to an individual school or use the Common Application, entering your information just once. The Common Application is an application that over 415 schools accept for admission. Some states have their own version, as do the Historical Black Colleges and Universities. The concept is simple. Students only need to fill out an application once and submit it to as many colleges that will take it.

The different common applications allow students to collect information that can be used for other college applications. By filling out a common application a student can locate information and have the information ready for future applications. Also, the original Common Application has several essays topics, which students can draft over the summer and use for other applications.

◆ Application Fee
The average college application fee is around $35. (Some colleges charge up to $60, while others don't have an application fee at all.) The fee is usually nonrefundable, even if you're not offered admission. Many colleges offer fee waivers for applicants from low-income families. If you need a fee waiver, call the college's admissions office for more information.

◆ High School Transcript
This form is filled out by an official of your high school. If it comes with your admissions materials, you should give it to the guidance office to complete as early as possible. Some colleges send this form directly to your school after receiving your application.

◆ Admissions Test Scores
At many colleges, you have to submit SAT®, SAT Subject Test™, or ACT test scores. Test scores are a standard way of measuring a student's ability to do college-level work.

◆ Letters of Recommendation
Your entire application should create a consistent portrait of who you are. Many private colleges ask you to submit one or more letters of recommendation from a teacher, counselor, or other adult who knows you well. When asking someone to write such a letter, be sure to do so well before the college's deadline.

◆ Essay and Personal Statements
If you're applying to private colleges, your essay often plays a very important role. Whether you're writing an autobiographical statement or an essay on a specific theme, take the opportunity to express your individuality in a way that sets you apart from other applicants.
◆ Interview
This is required or recommended by some colleges. Even if it's not required, it's a good idea to set up an interview because it gives you a chance to make a personal connection with someone who will have a voice in deciding whether or not you'll be offered admission. If you're too far away for an on-campus interview, try to arrange to meet with an alumnus in your community.

◆ Audition/Portfolio
If you're applying for a program such as music, art, or design, you may have to document prior work by auditioning on campus or submitting an audiotape, slides, or some other sample of your work to demonstrate your ability.

◆ Activities
Colleges and universities are looking for students who are intelligent, personable and active. A student does not have to be a star athlete or a skilled musician or actor to receive credit for being active. It is also true that students need not be involved in everything imaginable. Colleges want students who are motivated beyond the classroom and earnest enough to devote time and energy to clubs, sport, organizations and work. Admission officers review applications with the knowledge that the clubs and activities on their campuses need new members and new leaders. Students who demonstrate that they maintained their interest in a certain activity for a number of years and have played a leadership role in that activity will be considered more highly than students with a higher G.P.A. or higher SAT scores who have done very little in high school but study.

◆ The Sum of the Parts
Your entire application should create a consistent portrait of who you are and what you'll bring to the college. The more the pieces of the puzzle support one impression, the more confident the admissions committee will be in admitting you. If the essay or interview contradicts information you gave on other forms, you may cause them to have doubts about accepting you.

If all the parts of your application are filled out honestly and carefully, with an attention to your conviction that each school is a good match for you, you will come across in the best light possible.
More about Recommendation Letters:

Counselor Recommendation

Your counselor writes a recommendation in support of your application and tries to draw attention to your most positive characteristics as a student and as an individual. That recommendation will also point out any issues that may have affected your high school record. Generally, this recommendation addresses your abilities, talents and potential as a learner. It is often a glowing endorsement of your scholastic and personal achievement. It also must provide any information pertaining to poorer performance or unacceptable behavior such as academic dishonesty.

In TFPS, students are suggested to ask Counselor Recommendation letter from your Advisor (導師), who knows you better. However, Guidance Counselor is still available to write your letter but you have to ask very early.

Teacher Recommendations

Teacher recommendations provide more detail about your approach to learning in a particular subject area. It is your responsibility to ask two teachers for recommendations. Normally, one teacher recommendation from a humanities subject and one teacher recommendation from a math or science subjects are expected. College and universities assume that all recommendations will provide very positive evaluations of each student. The school profile is used by the counselor to write their own recommendation. Therefore, it is not advisable to give the same profile to teachers.

✧ Please be aware that you should not write the Recommendation Letters by yourself. Advisor/Teacher/Faculty may write your recommendation letters in Chinese then you can translate it into English with the authorization from the Advisor/Teacher/Faculty.

Brief Self-Evaluation:

✧ Your goals and values
  What aspects of your high school years have been most meaningful to you?
  What do you care most about?
  How do you define success? Are you satisfied with your accomplishments to date?
  What kind of person would you like to become? Of your unique gifts and strengths which would you like to develop?

✧ Your education
  What are your academic interests? Which classes have you enjoyed the most? Which classes have been most difficult? Why?
  In what areas of skills or knowledge do you feel most confident or least confident?
  Have you been challenged by your courses?

✧ Your activities and interests
  What activities do you most enjoy outside the daily routine of classes and other responsibilities?
  How would you describe your role in school or your home community?
What do you consider your most significant contribution?

Typical Questions Asked by College Interviewers

✧ About your Academic Record and your High School
   What subjects have you taken in high school? What are your favorite classes and why?
   What books have your read that weren’t required reading in the past year?
   Describe your high school and the different groups within your class. Where do you fit in?
   Describe the community in which you live and how you participate in it.

✧ About your Activities, Interests, and Work Experience
   What is/are your most important activity(ies)? Why?
   What work or volunteer experiences have you had during school and your summers?
   What have you learned from these experiences?
   What are some qualities that may set you apart from other applicants?
   What local, national, or global issues concern you most?

✧ About your Interest in College
   Who or what influenced you to consider this school?
   What other colleges have you visited/applied to?

✧ What attracted you to this college?

Writing Your College Essay

(Taken from Essays That Worked, edited by Boykin and Brian Kasbar)

Before you start to write

1. Begin thinking about essay topics in the early fall.
2. Write a timeline of your life, noting special dates and important events.
3. Make a list of 5-6 possible essay topics and discuss them with your parents and teachers/mentors.
4. Find a quiet place, and “write” the essay in your mind.
5. Be sure ot give yourself plenty of time to work on the essay before the deadline.

While you are writing

1. Make sure you are answering the prompt question appropriately
2. Have a dictionary and thesaurus near by
3. If you get “writer’s block,” try saying the essay out loud to a friend who can take notes
4. Ask a teacher and English native speaker for help
5. Re-read your essay after a few days.

Before you finalize your essay

1. Double-check for spelling, grammar, and punctuation mistakes.
2. Make sure that the essay looks neat.
3. Does the essay “sound” like you?
4. Ask an adult and an English native speaker to proofread your essay.

**The 10 Commandments of Writing a College Essay**

1. Make every word count. Unless there are specifics on the length, the essay should be 1 page long, 12 point, Times-New Roman font, double-spaced, with 1 inch margins.
2. Do not try to tell your life story. Pick an aspect to focus on and detail, detail, detail. Use concrete examples of your own childhood, your hobbies, your family, etc.
3. Do not use contractions (i.e.: don’t)
4. Write in the present tense. (i.e.: “I am looking forward to college…,” “I focus on this aspect because…”)
5. Proofread multiple times. Typos and misspelling look very, very bad. Revise, REVISE, REVISE! The more drafts you go through, the better.
6. Avoid clichés (i.e.: My mother always said I would be a success.)
7. Tailor the essay to the school. Do not write about your desire to be a veterinarian if the school you are applying to does not have that major. Do adequate research of your schools before you write.
8. Do not repeat details from the application.
9. If there is more than one essay in the application, make them DIFFERENT. Do not cut and paste. It will not go unnoticed.
10. WHAT MAKES YOU UNIQUE? The admissions director reading your essay wants to know what makes you stand out. Make your topic interesting. Be creative. Grab the attention of the reader in the first few sentences.

**Your High-School Resume: Market yourself**  
*By Dave Berry*

Getting into a good college is a lot like trying to get a good job. In both cases, you need a way to sell yourself. That's where your résumé comes in.

A high school résumé works like a professional résumé. If you are a junior, planning on applying to colleges that do not accept everyone who applies (that's most colleges), you're going to be competing for a spot in the freshman class. You need a tool to market yourself, something to make you stand out from the others. A résumé is the answer.

To put together a high school résumé, you need to do some serious reflection. Get a piece of paper and a pencil. Ask someone in your family, who knows what you have accomplished over the years, to sit with you for an hour or so. The purpose of this exercise is to chronicle the highlights of your academic and extracurricular career.
Start by listing the **Biggest academic honors you've garnered, starting with ninth grade.** Most colleges are interested in only your four years of high school. Please note, though, that if you have done something exceptional in middle or elementary school, make note of it. Academic honors include honor-roll recognition, essay-writing awards, science competitions, and the like. Take time to discuss your history. Make note of everything that comes up.

Now turn to your **Extracurriculars.** This category includes clubs you've belonged to, class offices you've held, sports, band, yearbook, and all the other nonacademic activities you've done. Don't forget non-school-related items such as volunteering at a nursing home and jobs you've worked. Include special interests like photography, hiking, writing, and so forth. Detail your uniqueness. You're trying to paint a portrait of yourself; create an action inventory.

When you're finished listing everything, **put the items into chronological order by category.** The title of this document should be something like, "Yi-Ching Anne Lin: Personal Highlights," or "Yi-Ching Anne Lin: Achievement Summary," or something similar. Your two main categories should be "Academic" and "Other," or "Extra-Curricular." Use three time periods: Elementary (if needed), Middle School (if needed), and Junior-Senior High School.

When you're done, you'll have a **one-sheet profile** of your best work and activities. You can include a copy of the résumé with all of your applications to offset the application's limited space. Don't be afraid to market yourself. If you don't, who will?

**College Admission Interview Tips**

Most college interview questions are meant to help you and the interviewer find out if the college is a good match for you. Rarely will you get a question that puts you on the spot or tries to make you feel stupid. Remember, the college is trying to make a good impression too. Use the interview to show off your personality in ways that aren't possible on the application. Here are some tips for you:

**Preparation**

1. Know the basics. Check the school’s brochures and Web site. Learn as much about the institution as possible before you go in.
2. Review your application materials. The interviewers may use your application materials to strike up a conversation with you.
3. Review your application essay so it’s fresh in your mind when you interview.
4. Practice some typical questions
5. Prepare some questions to ask. Show your interest in the school by asking specific questions, such as How would you describe the student body?

**Interview Day**

1. Dress appropriately. You can wear school uniform.
2. Once you get in the interview room, introduce yourself and greet the interviewers with a handshake and smile.

3. Remember that this is a conversation, and that the interview wants to know about you. Be yourself and be honest in your answers.

4. Provide more than a “yes” or “no” answer. Keep your answers as conversational as possible. Try to find specifics that back up your answers so you’ll be able to enter the conversation.

5. Be spontaneous. Though you should practice answering some basic questions, answer honestly, naturally and spontaneously in the interview.

6. Don’t memorize your answers or you will end up sounding like you are reading from a scripture.

7. Highlight the good things from your academic past and put a positive “spin” your background. I know you probably have a lot of great things about yourself to share with the interviewer, but remember: be specific, narrow down your stories to three or four categories so you can answer the questions more specifically.

8. Send a thank-you note shortly after the interview.

Below are some typical questions for your reference. You don’t need to memorize your answers, but think through the issues ahead of time so you’ll have some ideas to discuss. Practice some specific questions. You’ll also want to prepare for questions that ask you to identify key topics or experiences that are important to you. Think in advance about some of your favorite experiences, activities or plans.

1. Tell me about yourself
2. Why are you interested in our school? - Be specific
3. What can I tell you about our college? (ask the interviewer questions)
4. Who is in your life has influenced you the most?
5. Why do you want to major in ________________?
6. What will you contribute to our campus community?
7. Tell me about a challenge you overcome?
8. What do you do for fun in your free time?
9. What do you see yourself doing 10 years from now?
10. Does your high school record reflect your effort and ability?
Chinese Name:_______________ English Name:_________________ Date:_________________
Grade:__      Date of Birth:________________
Email:____________________________________

Please complete and provide as much detail as possible. The information you provide will assist the counselor/teachers who will be writing your letters of recommendation.

Please complete the following chart. It will help you focus on your personal strength.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Below Average</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Good (above average)</th>
<th>Very good (well above average)</th>
<th>Excellent (Top 10%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic achievement</td>
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<td>Creativity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Growth potential</td>
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<td>Extra curricular activities</td>
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<td>Leadership</td>
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<td>Personal qualities and</td>
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<tr>
<td>character</td>
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</table>

1. What is your intended major or career goal?
____________________________________________________________________________________

2. List and describe all special interests, abilities, talents, and hobbies. Include any summer programs that you have attended during high school and or any travel you may have done. Please explain the activity, hobby, etc. if appropriate.
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

3. How would you describe yourself and what would you want colleges or employers to know about you or your accomplishments?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
4. In what extra-curricular, civic and/or community activities are you involved? And what has your most important contribution been?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

5. What is your most meaningful activity?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

6. What accomplishment(s) in your life do you feel really good about?
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

7. Additional information you would like to share: (Attach additional page if necessary)
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________

List 3 words you would use to describe yourself as a student:
____________________
____________________
____________________

List 3 words you would use to describe yourself as a person:
____________________
____________________
____________________

PARENTS: Please tell us about your son / daughter:
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________________
## Finalizing Your College List (by October of your Senior Year)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Safeties</th>
<th>Probables</th>
<th>Reach</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>(One or two colleges you have a 90-100% chance of getting in)</td>
<td>(Two to four colleges you have at least 75% chance of getting in)</td>
<td>(One or two colleges you have a 50% or less chance of getting in)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Taipei Fuhsing Private High School
262 Section 1, Tun-Hwa South Road,
Taipei, Taiwan, R.O.C.

College and University Application Cover Sheet

To Seniors: Please fill out this form completely and submit this along with your application package. This will serve as the cover sheet sent with your application. Please fill out one for each application and send a copy to guidance counselor for record.

Student’s Name: ____________________ Birthday: __________________
College/University: __________________
Address: ___________________________
Application deadline: __________________

Method:
________ Paper Application attached
  □ Institution’s form
  □ Common Application
________ Online Application sent on________________(attached confirmation sheet)
  □ Institution’s form
  □ Common Application

Admission Plan: ______ Regular Decision        ______ Rolling Admission
               ______ Early Decision        ______ Early Action
               ______ Priority

Payment: ______ Check enclosed               ______ online Credit Card

Please indicate which of the following are included in the application packet:
  □ Complete Application
  □ Essay (if on paper)
  □ Financial document (required for international applicants)
  □ Official transcript and school profile
  □ Counselor recommendation
  □ Teacher recommendation by_______________; _______________; _______________
  □ Signature Page (for online application)
  □ Common Application Supplement
  □ Others (please describe) ______________________________

Student’s signature: ____________________ Date submitted: __________________
Important Resources

General College Resources

- **College Board**: SAT preparation and registration. Also has resources on applying to colleges and financial aid. ([http://www.collegeboard.com/](http://www.collegeboard.com/))


- **Princeton Review**: Explore Colleges. Find the best fit school, learn about applying for it, and more. ([http://www.princetonreview.com/](http://www.princetonreview.com/))

- **U.S. News**: College Rankings & Lists: Get exclusive rankings of 1,400 schools. Use the tools to search for your perfect fit. And find details on scholarships, loans, and grants. ([http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges](http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges))

- **College Results Online**: [http://www.collegeresults.org/search2a.aspx](http://www.collegeresults.org/search2a.aspx)

- **My College Guide**: Information on various college programs including academics, sports, and student life. ([http://mycollegeguide.org/](http://mycollegeguide.org/))

- **Campus Tours**: Provides on-line virtual tours of hundreds of college campuses. ([http://www.campustours.com/](http://www.campustours.com/))

- **OffToCollege**: comprehensive website on colleges, scholarships, and financial aid ([http://www.offtocollege.com/](http://www.offtocollege.com/))

- Fuhsing's **College Handbook** (includes planning timeline)

SAT Preparation

Reference Books

- **The Official SAT Study Guide**
  Authored by the College Board, the Official SAT Guide is nearly 900 pages of pure SAT prep. It includes drills, strategies, test-taking advice, an expanded math section, a critical reading section, an essay section, and full-length practice tests.

- **The Princeton Review Cracking the SAT**
  The Princeton Review is known for great test prep books and their SAT guide is no exception. Cracking the SAT offers comprehensive information on each section of the SAT and also includes full-length practice tests. Though the book leans more towards strategy than actual practice, you can still find many valuable tips that will help you ace the SAT.

- **Barron’s SAT**
Presents a diagnostic test and five full-length practice tests that reflect the most recent SATs in length, question types, and degree of difficulty. The book also presents an overview of the SAT, explains its scoring method, and offers subject reviews in critical reading, grammar and usage, and math. In addition, it gives advice on preparing and writing the required SAT essay.

- **Kaplan SAT Premier Program**
  Kaplan prep books have always been popular and for good reason. Kaplan is always up-to-date and they run the gamut, offering everything from basic study tips to comprehensive test analysis. The most recent edition of Kaplan SAT contains hundreds of practice questions with detailed answer explanations, lesson summaries, diagnostic tests, and full-length practice tests.

**Web Resources**

- **ETS**: (Education Testing Services) Provides information on SAT, AP, TOEFL, and other tests. Information includes testing dates and sites, and preparation materials. ([http://www.ets.org/](http://www.ets.org/))

- **College Board**: SAT preparation and registration. Also has resources on applying to colleges and financial aid. ([http://www.collegeboard.com/](http://www.collegeboard.com/))

- **Princeton Review**: Provides information on national tests, preparation materials, financial aid and scholarship information, and many U.S. colleges. ([http://www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com))

- **Kaplan**: Provides information on national tests, preparation materials, financial aid and scholarship information, and many U.S. colleges. ([http://www.kaptest.com/College/SAT/index.html](http://www.kaptest.com/College/SAT/index.html))