

Factors in the College Admission Decision

ACT

College admissions officers at over 1,540 colleges and universities are asked to complete the NACAC Admissions Trend Survey each year. The chart below shows how important admissions officers consider various factors when making an admission decision. The number in each cell shows the percentage of all admissions officers responding to the survey that attribute a particular level of importance to a given factor.

Factor	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in College Prep Courses	74%	16%	6%	4%
Standardized Admission Tests	59%	29%	6%	6%
Grades in All Courses	54%	35%	7%	4%
Class Rank	31%	33%	20%	16%
Essay or Writing Sample	23%	35%	21%	21%
Counselor Recommendation	17%	44%	25%	14%
Teacher Recommendation	17%	42%	26%	15%
Work/Extracurricular Activities	8%	39%	35%	18%
Interview	9%	29%	29%	33%
Student's Demonstrated Interest	15%	21%	23%	41%
State Graduation Exam Scores	7%	12%	30%	51%
Subject Tests (SAT II, AP, IB)	7%	24%	33%	36%
Race/Ethnicity	2%	16%	20%	62%
Ability to Pay	2%	7%	15%	76%
State or County of Residence	1%	8%	16%	75%
Alumni Relation	2%	19%	44%	35%

Resources for Families

Source: 2006 NACAC Admission Trends Survey