

20 years of experience in Education

Writing Instructor
Test Prep Instructor
High School Guidance Counselor
Education Researcher
Director of College Counseling
Founder of HJK Admission Consulting
Certified College Funding Specialist

Speaker: Jennifer Kim, MEd Columbia University
www.hjkadmissionconsulting.com

2025 Admission Statistics at HYPSM+ Universities

Princeton 1861 / 42303 (4%)

MIT 1324 / 29282 (5%)

Yale 2308 / 50227 (5%)

Columbia 2946 / 59616 (5%)

Brown 2418 / 42765 (6%)

Rice University 2852 / 36777 (8%)

Tufts University 3600/36000 (10%)

Georgetown 3267 / 26841 (12%)

UT Austin 19417 / 100000+ (<25%)

Texas A&M College Station 29000 / 82,000 (35%)

UT Dallas 20704 / 31789 (60%)

Source: EduRank (updated 3/15/2026)



Increase in Alternative Program Offerings

UT CAP (Coordinated Admission Program) & PACE (Path to Admission through Co-Enrollment)

TAMU PSA (Program for System Admission) & Blinn TEAM

Northeastern University (Specialized Entry Programs)

Boston University (General Studies - spring prog followed by a summer term in London)

NYU (2 year Liberal Arts track + opp to study abroad, then finish the last two years)

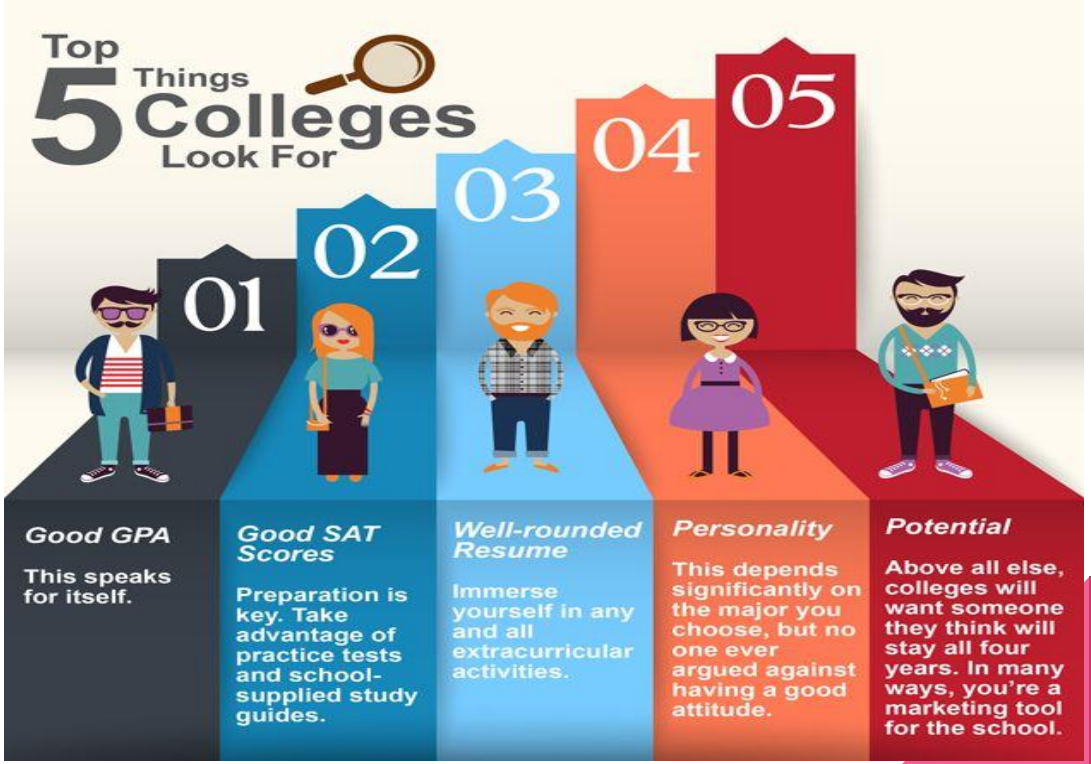
Summer Start Programs OR Foundation Year Program

- Georgia Tech, NC State, Purdue, Clemson, Texas A&M, and even UC Berkeley

Spring Start Offerings

- American, Brandeis, USC, Middlebury, Cornell, University of Maryland, and University of Miami

Holistic Review



Where do AO's find KEY Factors?

Academics *proof of evidence to succeed in college

- GPA, Tests, Course selection (transcript)

Personal Qualities/Values *kindness, empathy, helpfulness, leadership

- Personal Essays/Statements

Character *responsibility, determination, resilience

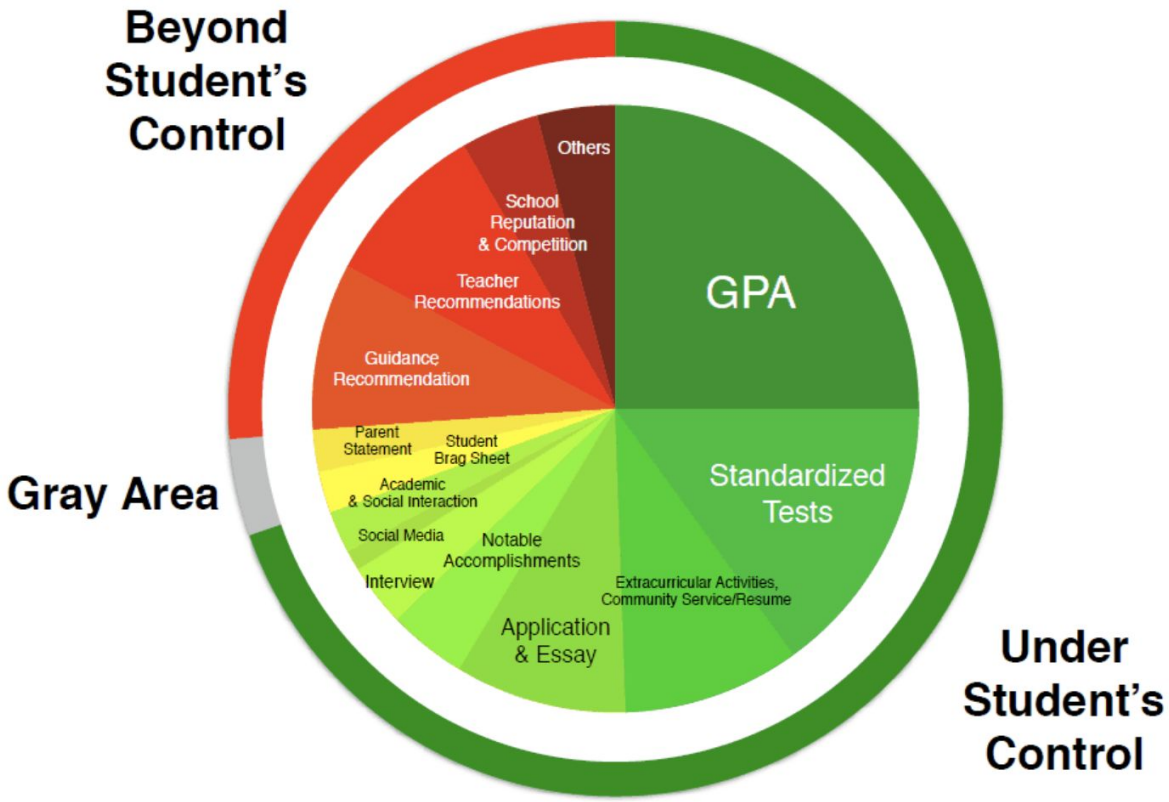
- LOR endorsing your personal qualities via observation and interaction

Curiosity *Crossover activities - EC's tied to your academic passion

- E.g. STREAM thru research, competition, innovative projects

Impact *your potential as a lifetime member of the university & community

- Activities that added value to our community, LOR


Beyond Student's Control
Gray Area
Under Student's Control
Others
School Reputation & Competition
Teacher Recommendations
Guidance Recommendation
GPA
Parent Statement
Student Brag Sheet
Academic & Social Interaction
Social Media
Notable Accomplishments
Interview
Standardized Tests
Extracurricular Activities, Community Service/Resume
Application & Essay

Case Study 1

GPA 4.6/5.0

Rank 22/385 (Top 6%)

IB DP Candidate (Biology HL, English HL, History HL)

ACT 33 // SAT 1500

AP Scholar (5's on Calc AB, World, Government)

Key ECs: Tennis (8+ yrs, #1 sit), Community Service (1000+hrs @ ALC), Leadership (IB, Tennis)

Academic Interest: premed, *neonatologist

Accepted: UNC Chapel Hill, NC State, Duke, Tulane, UCLA, Cornell, NYU, Rochester, George Washington, Case Western, UC Irvine, Wisconsin-Madison

GPA 4.0/4.0

Rank NA/100 (Valedictorian)

IB DP Candidate (Biology HL, Chemistry HL, English HL)

ACT 34

AP Scholar: (5's on French, English, Spanish)

Key ECs: Student Gov (3 yrs), hospital volunteer (1 yr), service work abroad (1yr), tutoring at school

Academic Interest: premed

Accepted: SMU, Baylor, Tulane, Pitzer, UT, UTD

Case Study 2

GPA 5.02/6.0

Rank NA/399 (Top 10%)

SAT 1500

AP Scholar with Distinction (9 APs)

Key ECs: Research (3 yrs), Community Service (Zoo), Leadership (revamped school's gardening club)

Academic Interest: environmental engineer, *conservation, forestry

Accepted: University of Maryland, Yale, University of Chicago, Johns Hopkins, Northeastern, UNC Chapel Hill, Holy Cross, Swarthmore, Rutgers

GPA 5.21/6.0

Rank 60/605 (Top 10%)

SAT 1550

AP Scholar with Distinction (14 APs)

Key ECs: Band, UIL Competitions, Community Service (MS robotics, eagle scout), Leadership (band)

Academic Interest: engineer, computer scientist

Accepted: TAMU (Honors), UT, University of Michigan, Cornell, Wisconsin-Madison, University of Washington, UIUC

Case Study 3

GPA 3.7/4.0

Rank NA/100

Test Optional

AP Scholar (4 APs)

Highest Math: Statistics Honors

Key ECs: Ice Hockey (U19), Community Service (coaching), Job (ref)

Academic Interest: business, entrepreneurship

Accepted: Northeastern (ED2), Bentley, NC State, Suffolk, University of South Carolina

GPA 3.6/4.0

Rank NA/100

Test Optional

National Hispanic Scholar

Highest Math: AP Calc AB

Key ECs: Swimming, Community Service (scattered), Job (3 yrs lifeguard)

Academic Interest: French, business, IR, Undecided

Denied: UT, Notre Dame (REA), Northeastern, Georgetown (EA),

Accepted: Boston University (ED2)

Reflection

1. Grades DO matter!
    a. Start strong, 9th grades matter! (9-11th GPA)
    b. Need to be in the top percentile to be taken seriously
2. Start SAT/ACT prep early to get the score you need!
    a. High test scores = increased chance of admittance + scholarships
3. Focus on quality ECs over quantity!
    a. You only have room for so much
4. Start the college process early!
    a. There are so many pieces to college application:
        i. Selecting right courses and activities
        ii. Creating a balance college list (4000+ universities in the US!)
        iii. Strategizing when, where, and how (what to submit)to apply
        iv. Finding the essay topics that will stick
        v. Asking for the right support from your high schools
        vi. Packaging to increase chance for grants & scholarships
        vii. And MORE...

Essential Topics Discussed with 8-11th grades

- How to identify your theme
- How to create a stand out factor
- How to land a research/internship positions
- How to figure out your major/academic interest
- How to get strong letters of recommendation
- How to choose the right course load
- How to choose the impactful activities (clubs and extracurriculars)
- How to network with college admission officers and alumni
- How to build a balanced college list
- Summer prog research and application support
- SAT / ACT strategies and resources
- Any other questions about college admission journey

College Consulting Timeline

