



TEST PREP AND
ADMISSIONS

College Admissions Information Seminar



June 11, 2010

Overview of UK Higher Education

Six main categories:

1. Ancient Universities: Oxford, Cambridge, St. Andrews, Glasgow, Aberdeen, Edinburgh and Dublin
2. 19th Century-Chartered Universities: The University of London, The University of Wales, University of Wales (Lampeter) and Durham University
3. Red Brick Universities: Birmingham, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield, Bristol and Manchester
4. Plate Glass Universities: Sussex, York, East Anglia, Essex, Lancaster, Kent and Warwick
5. The Open University
6. New Universities

UK Admissions Process

- University and College Admissions Service (UCAS)
- Submit:
 - Grades, grades, grades
 - Personal Statement
 - Academic Transcripts
 - Some require interviews

Overview of U.S. Higher Education

- Nearly 4,500 higher education institutions, offering nearly 500 different fields of study
- Two major types of colleges: 2-year colleges and 4-year colleges/universities
- Greater Flexibility
 - Wide range of courses to choose from
 - Classes range from general to specific
 - Unit/credit system – easier to manage your time and duration of study

US College Admissions Statistics

- **3.3 million high school are expected to graduate**
- **60% apply to college - ~1.9M**
- **The average college applicant applies to 6-10 schools (five years ago, the average was 5-6 schools).**
- **73% of colleges reported an increase in the number of applications**
- **Over 30% of college freshman reported being denied admission to their first choice school. (2002 American Freshman Survey)**

Knowing the Lingo

1. Early Decision

Binding early admissions option whereby students can apply to a single college/university before the common deadline and receive an answer by mid-December of his/her senior year.

2. Early Action

Non-binding early admissions option whereby students can apply to other colleges/universities before the common deadline and receive an answer by mid-December of his/her senior year.

1. Single-Choice Early Action

Non-binding early admissions option whereby students can apply to a single college/university before the common deadline and receive an answer by mid-December of his/her senior year

Should I Apply Early?

Application Type	Binding	Can Apply Early to Other Colleges	Can Apply Under Regular Admissions
Early Decision	Yes	No	Yes
Early Action	No	Yes	Yes
Single-Choice Early Action	No	No	Yes

Knowing the Lingo

3. Rolling Admissions

Admissions policy in which colleges review applications and make admissions decisions as applications are received.

4. Early Evaluation

Admissions option where colleges will provide an estimate of a student's overall chances of acceptance.

Selectivity (Admissions Rate)

<u><20%</u>	<u><30%</u>	<u><50%</u>	<u><75%</u>	<u>>75%</u>
Harvard 10.3%	Georgetown University 21%	University of Notre Dame 32%	Santa Clara University 61%	University of Louisiana Lafayette 76%
Yale 9.9%	UC Berkeley 26%	NYU 37%	Boston University 58%	Webster College (Florida) 77%
Columbia 13%	UCLA 27%	UChicago 40%	Texas A&M University 70%	University of Massachusetts (Amherst) 80%
Princeton 11.9%	Tufts University 28%	UMiami 46%	U Conn 51%	Purdue University 85%
Brown 15.8%				
Cornell 28.7%				
Dartmouth 18.3%				
U Penn 21%				

What Colleges are Looking for in an Applicant?

- Individuality
- Something that sets you from the rest of the applicant pool
- Qualities in you that can contribute to the college's success
- Indication that you can succeed in the college environment – Grades/GPA/Class Rank, Standardized Tests, Experiences, Essay and Recommendations

Find Out All You Can About the University

- **Contact Admissions**
- **Get alumni contact information and inquire about your potential university**
- **Speak with admissions to see if they can recommend peer leaders at the university for you to speak with**
- **College Visits: Campus Tour, sit in on classes, and talk to students and professors.**

Choosing Undergraduate Programs

➤ Types of School

- 2-year Community College
- 4-year College/University
- Public
- Private
- Large
- Small

➤ Fields of Study

➤ Location

- Weather
- Environment
- Cost of living

Rankings vs. the Right Match

Rankings

- No 'official' rankings
- Usually provided by magazines
- Vary greatly
- May miss great smaller schools

The Right Match

- Specific to your needs and interests
- Based on you personally
- Identifies the institutions where you are most likely to succeed

Choosing Undergraduate Programs

- Recommendations from your teachers
- Costs
- Availability of Scholarships/Financial Aids
- Competitiveness
 - Acceptance Rate
 - TOEFL Score
 - SAT Score
- Accreditation (www.chea.org)

Making a List Your Schools

<u>Safety Schools</u>	<u>Target Schools</u>	<u>Reach Schools</u>
Your GPA and SAT scores are above 75% of the students at the school	Your GPA and SAT scores are above 50% of the students at the school	Your GPA and SAT scores are above 25% of the students at the school
1. _____	1. _____	1. _____
2. _____	2. _____	2. _____
3. _____	3. _____	3. _____
	4. _____	
	5. _____	

Entrance Requirements

- 4-year Colleges/Universities:
 - SAT I – General Test
 - SAT II – Subject Tests (if requested)
 - TOEFL
 - High School Transcript
 - Letters of Recommendation (if requested)
- 2-year/Junior/Community Colleges:
 - TOEFL (if requested)
 - High School Transcript

Congratulations!

GPA and Transcript

Test Scores

Application

Extracurricular Activities

Letters of Recommendation

Personal Statement

Interview

1 GPA and Transcript

Are all grades equal?

- NO, colleges are most impressed with high grades in college prep or college level courses.

How important is class rank?

- If your high school reports, class rank, colleges will want to see how you compare among your peers.

2 Test Scores

Should I take the SAT or ACT*?

- What is the policy of the school to which you are applying?
- Do not send scores to Universities yourself!!

What about SAT IIs?

- Many colleges require that you submit SATII scores as part of the application package.

③ Application

What is the Common Application?

- The Common Application is the recommended application for 414 US colleges: www.commonapp.org

When should I apply?

- Apply as early as possible during your senior year to take advantage of early decision, early action or rolling admissions policies.

5 Letters of Recommendation

Who should I ask?

- Ask the people who know you the best. You want a *GREAT* letter!
- Always provide a resume, reasons why you want to attend college X, what you plan to study and any other pertinent information.

When should I ask?

- Allow plenty of advanced time—at least two months before the application deadline.
- Ask during the end of your junior year or as early during your senior year as possible.

6 Personal Statement

What do colleges want to see?

- Colleges want to judge your writing style and determine your suitability for college writing, and learn more about you as a person.

How important is the essay?

- Generally, the more selective the institution, the more important the essay. Admission officers will need to read hundreds of personal statements – MAKE YOURS INTERESTING!!!

SAT I – At a Glance

Test Offerings	Offered 6 times per year
Test Sections	10 Sections
Test Length	3 hours, 45 minutes
Scoring	3 scores of 200-800 per section
Score Availability	Available online 2-3 weeks after test. Scores are then mailed to students 3-4 weeks after test
Score Validity	Scores valid for up to 5 years
Score History	Up to six of the previous test scores are sent to universities
University Application	Universities require the College Board to send your score directly to them.
Test Fee	US\$46.00 + US\$25 Int'l Processing Fee

SAT II – Subject Tests

Subject tests fall into 5 general subject areas:

English

- Literature

History and Social Studies

- U.S. History
- World History

Mathematics

- Mathematics Level 1
- Mathematics Level 2

Science

- Biology E/M
- Chemistry
- Physics

Languages

- Chinese with Listening
- French
- French with Listening
- German
- German with Listening
- Spanish
- Spanish with Listening
- Modern Hebrew
- Italian
- Latin
- Japanese with Listening
- Korean with Listening

Application Procedure

- Start your application process about a year in advance
 - Choose around 10 colleges that interest you
 - Reference books are available at the Kaplan library
- Request application materials by mail or email
- Write to the Admissions Office and Academic Departments
- Read university responses carefully
- Identify 4-7 institutions that best meet your needs and to which you have a good chance of admission
- Take note of application deadlines

Application Procedures

- Take standardized admission tests mentioned before and have scores sent to schools directly
- Have application forms, high school reports and letters of recommendation sent to schools
 - Deadline is usually around December, January and February for 4-year colleges
 - Deadline is usually around March, April for junior/community colleges
 - Some have rolling admission or no deadlines

Where to Find Information

- Using the Internet
 - www.kaptest.com.hk
 - www.studyusa.com
 - www.internationalstudent.com
 - www.educationusa.state.gov
 - www.collegeboard.com
- Directly from the school's website

Q & A

Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions

www.kaptest.com.hk

Enquiry Hotline: 2359 9080