

Studying in the U.S.



Do your Research

*Choosing a college or university is a major decision. The key is to remember that there is no such thing as a "**perfect**" school. It is all about exploring your interests and finding the right match for you.*

Research college opportunities:

Answer questions about your needs and preferences, such as:

- What do I want to study?
- Where do I want to live?
- Cost Involved
- Is the institution located in a large city or a small town?
- How is the student life?
- How competitive is the admission process?
- What is the size of the student body?
- How diverse is the student body?
- What are the retention and graduation rates?

Admission Factors

Select colleges/universities look at the following criteria:

- Courses taken & your grades
- Predicted marks based on your courses that are taken in grade 11
- Rank in class
- Guidance counsellor and teacher recommendations
- Alumni relationship
- Ethnicity
- Application questions and essays
- Admission test results (Ex. SAT, ACT)
- special talents and skills
- Major & college applying to
- Activities outside the classroom
- Personal interview
- IB students both OSSD and predicted marks are used

Admission Factors

Personal Qualities:

- QUALITY of engagement in activities outside classroom
 - Tangible accomplishments = key
 - Develop narrative
- Leadership □ what you've done in those positions
 - Demonstrate initiative, commitment and passion

Application Essay (Telling your story):

- Show your natural voice
- Reflect on how you have matured
- Start writing early so you have time to edit and watch your length
- Think about the following:
 - Your community, environment, family and culture
 - What you are deeply curious about; what makes you proud
 - People and experiences that have shaped you
 - All obstacles either big or small, personal and societal (hardships & challenges)
 - How do you grow? How did I cope? Who helped me?

Admission Factors

Some schools may have an interview:

- be a good sport
- show enthusiasm
- demonstrate creativity

Possible Questions:

- Why are you interested in this school?
- How do you plan to contribute to our campus?
- Why should we accept you over other students?
- What is your one strength? Your weakness?
- What drives you?
- Do you have any questions for me?

A Map of U.S. Colleges

- **Ivy League:** Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Penn, Brown, Columbia, Dartmouth, Cornell
- **Private:** Stanford, Duke, Chicago, Northwestern, Johns Hopkins, Carnegie Mellon, Georgetown
- **Public:** UCLA, Berkeley, Michigan, North Carolina, Illinois, Virginia
- **Small Liberal Arts:** Amherst, Williams, Swarthmore, Wellesley, Carleton, Grinnell, Vassar

Early Decision

Early Decision allows you to apply early (most in November) and get an admission decision from the college well in advance of the usual notification date. Early decision plans are "binding," meaning if you apply as an early decision candidate, you agree to attend the college if it accepts you and offers an adequate financial aid package. Although you can apply to only one college for early decision, you may apply to other colleges under regular admission. If you're accepted early, **you must withdraw all other applications**. Usually, colleges insist on a nonrefundable deposit well in advance of May 1.

Early Action

Early Action is similar to early decision plans in that you can learn early in the admission cycle (usually in January or February) whether a college has accepted you. But unlike early decision, most early action plans are not binding, meaning you do NOT have to commit to a college to which you've applied for early action. Under these plans, you may apply to multiple colleges and compare offers of admission. Usually, you can let the college know of your decision in the late spring or when you've decided.

Restrictive Early Action

Restrictive Early Action is slightly different from Early Action.

Restrictive Early Action means you can only apply to one school for the early round deadline. Important to note: some colleges (for example, Harvard) only have Restrictive Early Action option for early application.

Financial Aid Program

- **Need-Blind** schools for international admission.
 - Under a need-blind admissions policy, a college or university will admit students regardless of their ability to pay, and for any students that cannot afford the price tag.
 - 5 popular schools: Amherst College, Harvard University, MIT, Princeton University, Yale University
- **Need-Aware**
 - means the university awards scholarships and other institutional aid to selected international students.

How to Apply to the U.S.

- Important to do your **OWN** research
- Common Application has over 900 colleges
- Some schools do not use Common Application such as MIT, Georgetown, most public schools (Ex. Californian schools)
- If a school is on the Common Application, students **MUST** use it. Other platforms will not be supported through Guidance.
- Students cannot waive fees for the application as Guidance cannot verify your family's financial needs. This is legal information.
- Guidance uploads all **final Ontario marks** on the Common Application
- Some schools are self reporting like the California schools and students will have to request a transcript
- IB will provide Guidance with the predicted marks to upload
- If you are applying for ED/EA, grade 11 marks are used for predictions and you won't be repredicted for regular decision

How to Apply to the U.S. - Set Dates

If you are applying to the US, you must complete a google form by the following dates:

US - Early Decision/Early Action (September/October)

US - Regular Decision (November)

Once you fill out the google form, you will be contacted by the guidance counsellor who will support your application. Students should not approach teachers for predicted marks, your guidance counsellor will do this for you. You must approach teachers for reference letters.

Be advised that Guidance cannot guarantee late requests will be fulfilled. The google form will be closed on the deadline. Guidance does not check emails during winter break. If you make changes to your application during the winter break that requires Guidance to complete the application then consider your application incomplete.

Reference Letters

Many schools require:

- 2 teacher recommendation letters and 1 guidance counsellor letter
- Ask teachers that really know you
- Ask well in advance to give the teachers time to write a letter
- Guidance will need advance notice as they have to gather information about you and send emails to your teachers.
- Meet with your teacher/guidance counsellor to discuss type of content to include
- Provide them with a detailed resume
- If applying for the early round, inform your teachers in September
- Guidance will assign a counsellor to you
- Guidance cannot speak to private agencies about you nor provide them with transcripts or any documents.
- Teachers/Guidance do not have to write a recommendation letter
- This is voluntary. If not given enough time, do NOT expect a letter at all.

Athletes



- Students interested in applying to a Division I or Division II school, must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. This is not required for Division III schools
- The eligibility criteria is different for Division I and Division II schools so ensure that you go through the requirements carefully
 - the core courses you take fall into specific categories. You will be required to take a certain number of core courses in each category
 - 16 core courses and a minimum GPA in those courses are required
- The way in which you apply will also vary depending on what stage you are at (e.g. you are being actively recruited by a school, a transcript might be the only thing that is required for Guidance to send versus someone who is not being actively recruited; you may need to go through the Common App)
- speak to Ms. Jarrett if you have more specific questions

<https://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/international-student-athletes>

<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

Helpful websites

College Trackr Canada

www.collegetrackr.com

College Board Online

www.collegeboard.org

Education USA

www.educationusacanada.ca

Prep Skills

www.prepskills.com

Princeton Review

www.princetonreview.com

US College Expo

www.uscollegeexpo.com

My Blueprint

<https://app.myblueprint.ca/>

CollegeStat

www.collegestat.org

Peterson's Educational Center

www.petersons.com

Note: Some are private companies and will ask for payment

What You'll Learn



Undergraduate Programs

Pre-Medicine, Pre-Law, Engineering, Sciences, Psychology, Nursing, Business, Arts/Design, Esports, Economics, Computer Science and more!



Scholarships

Learn about all the scholarships and financial aid available for Canadian students!



Study Abroad

Learn about first year study abroad opportunities to Italy, Argentina, Europe, Costa Rica, Spain and Czech Republic!



NCAA Sports

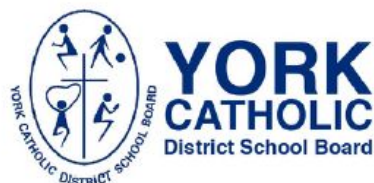
Are you a Canadian student-athlete? Join us to learn about the many sports offered by NCAA member schools!



Meet U.S. Universities

Speak to U.S. representatives about their undergraduate programs, sports, admissions process, standardized testing requirements, tuition/fees, scholarships, financial aid and more!

For York Region Students, Parents, Athletes & Counsellors



Scan or
[Click Here](#)
to Register



U.S. College & University Fair

16 May 2023 | 7PM - 9PM ET

Location:
Thornhill Secondary School

Organized by: CollegeTrackr Canada

