



# Getting into Competitive U.S. Undergraduate Programmes

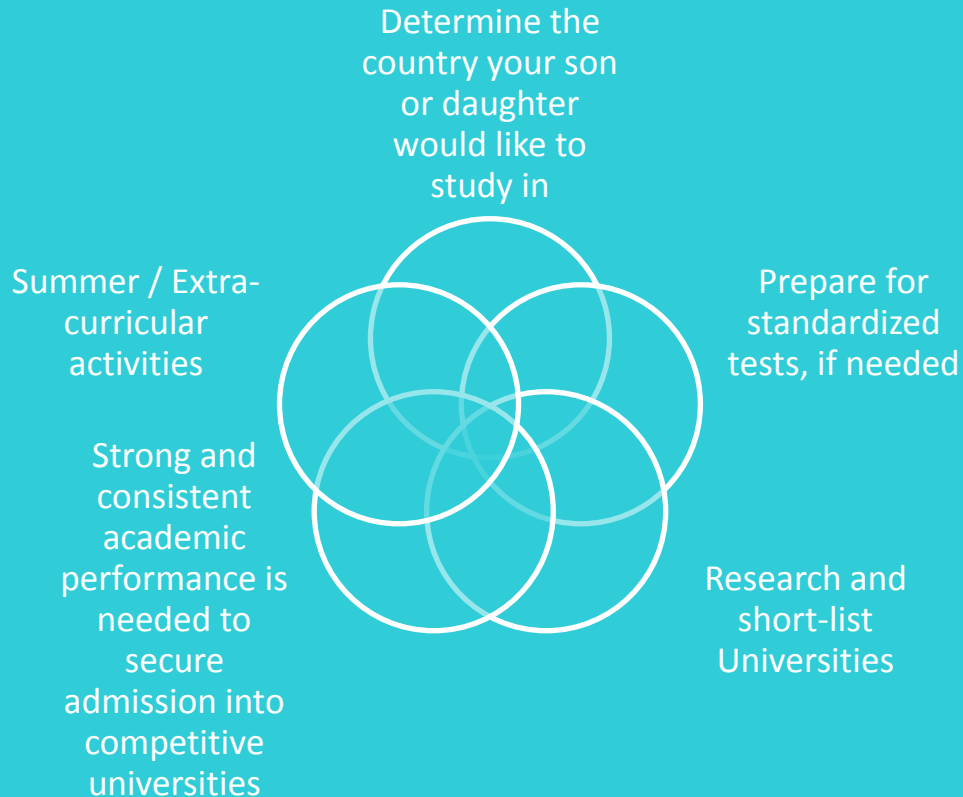
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# Nord Anglia Education Approach Be Ambitious

# Thinking about an Undergraduate Degree?





What is a good university “fit?”

# A university that “fits” well will...

Offer a *Programme of Study* to match your child's interests and needs

Provide a *Style of Instruction* to match the way your child learns best

Provide a level of *Academic Rigor* to match your child's

Offer a *Community* that your child will be comfortable in





# How admissions committees make decisions

Get three 'yes' answers.... and you're (probably) in!

- 1 • Are you able to do the work at our institution?
- 2 • Will you fit in here?
- 3 • Are you worth making room for?



# Admission C-R-I-T-E-R-I-A

C urriculum

R ecord

I nterests

T ests

E ssays

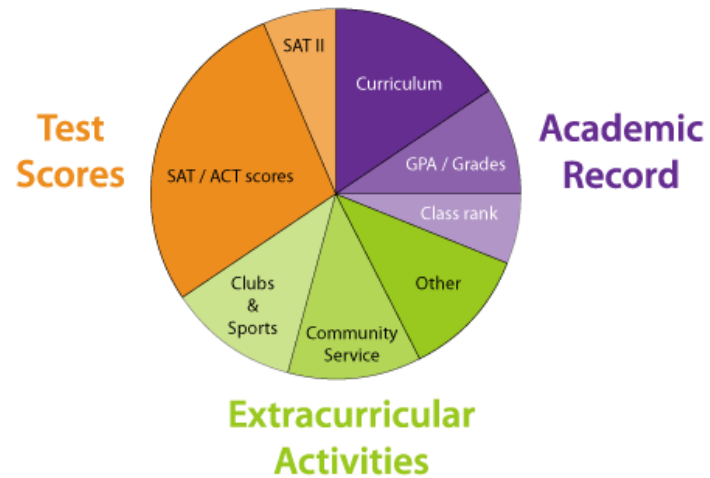
R ecommendation

I nterviews

A genda

## College Admissions Criteria

Admissions offices accept or reject students based on a number of criteria. This chart is a rough estimate of the weight offices put on different application sections.



# Admission C-R-I-T-E-R-I-A (cont.)

- Curriculum: notably the quality of courses available-and taken.
- Rigor of classes you have taken

- Record of academic achievement
- IGCSE results / predicted Grades
- Standardized test results (in most but not all cases)

- Interests/Involvement/Identity: what you care about besides studies.
- Extracurricular Activities
- Leadership potential

- Test results (IGCSE, IB predicted and actual grades)

- Essays: the first tiebreaker
- Writing skills (grammar, sentence structure, spelling);
- Content (differentiate yourself)

- Recommendations, mainly from subject teachers

- Interviews with admissions officers and/or alumni

- Agenda of the institution itself



# 4-year College vs. University

- In the U.S., there are broadly two types of institutions that offer undergraduate programs:
  - 4-year Colleges  
(offering Bachelors Degrees Only)
  - Universities  
(offering Masters and Doctoral Degrees as well)



# Deadlines for US Universities / Colleges

- Early Decision
- Early Action
- Regular Decision
- Rolling Admissions



# Early Decision: a common early admission policy- Typically a Nov 1 deadline

- Indicates to the University or College that the candidate considers that institution to be his or her top choice
- Candidates usually receive a decision in mid-December
  - Accepted, Rejected, or Deferred
- There is a binding commitment to enroll at the institution if the student is accepted



# Early Action: more flexible than Early Decision

## Typically a Nov. 1 deadline

- There are two types of Early Action programs: restrictive early action and non-restrictive early action.
- Depending on the program, it may be possible for a candidate to apply to more than one early action school and an early decision school





# Regular Decision

## Typically a Dec. 31 deadline

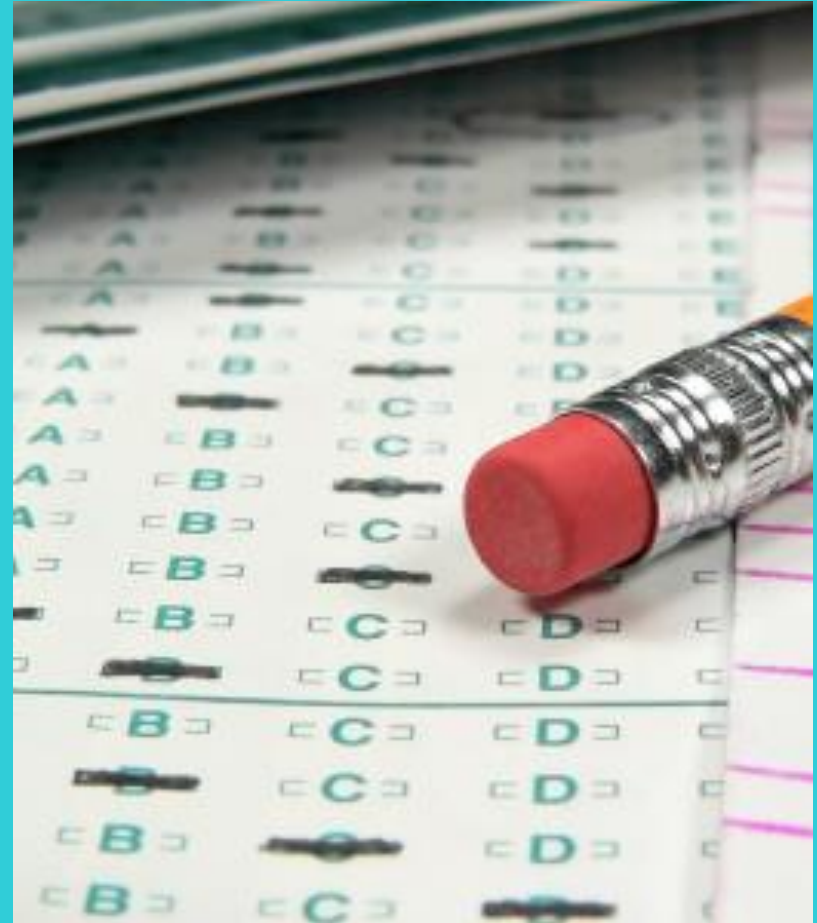
- Offers the most flexibility, and ability to compare admission and financial aid offers
- Candidates receive a decision from all institutions on April 1 and must make a firm commitment within a few weeks



# Rolling Admission

## No deadline

- This option is offered by some institutions, but typically not the most selective ones
- Candidates are invited to submit their applications to the college / university anytime within a large window
- Pros and Cons





# Application Forms

- Institution-Specific Application Forms
- Common Application (“The Common App”)
  - [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- Financial Aid Forms



# Recommendations

- I recommend that students applying to U.S. undergraduate programmes apply to 8-10 Universities/Colleges
- Only apply for financial aid if you will actually qualify for it
- Don't wait until the last week/day/hour to submit your application in case of any unforeseen situation (e.g. internet problems in China!)

