



INTERNATIONAL STUDENT'S GUIDE TO APPLYING TO U.S. COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Strategies and Approaches for Counselors

February 9, 2015

WHAT SCHOOLS SHOULD I APPLY TO?

- **Main factors**
 - **Area of study interest**
 - **School Requirements and Application Process**
 - found on college or university website
 - **Cost and affordability**
 - Tuition
 - Room/Board
 - Scholarships / Loans
 - Most U.S. Universities do not offer scholarships to foreign students
 - Scholarship Examples: athletics, music, and other areas of talent
 - Ask institution's financial office about loans



WHAT STUDENTS SHOULD DO FIRST

1. Research schools of interest and make a list
2. Find Admission requirements
3. Get organized (Create a calendar with deadlines)
4. Find where, how, and to whom to ask questions about the application process for each school.
5. Begin fulfilling requirements
6. Take Tests (SAT, ACT, and/or TOEFL)



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HOW DO THEY GET ACCEPTED?

The Holistic View

- Students are viewed as whole
- This includes:
 - Academic Grades
 - SAT and ACT scores
 - Achievements
 - Awards
 - Research Projects
 - Volunteer work
 - Sports
 - Clubs
 - Music
 - Journalism
 - Arts
 - Extracurricular Activities
 - Diversity within school

Universities and Colleges want students who will **contribute** to the school's mission, diverse programs, and culture.



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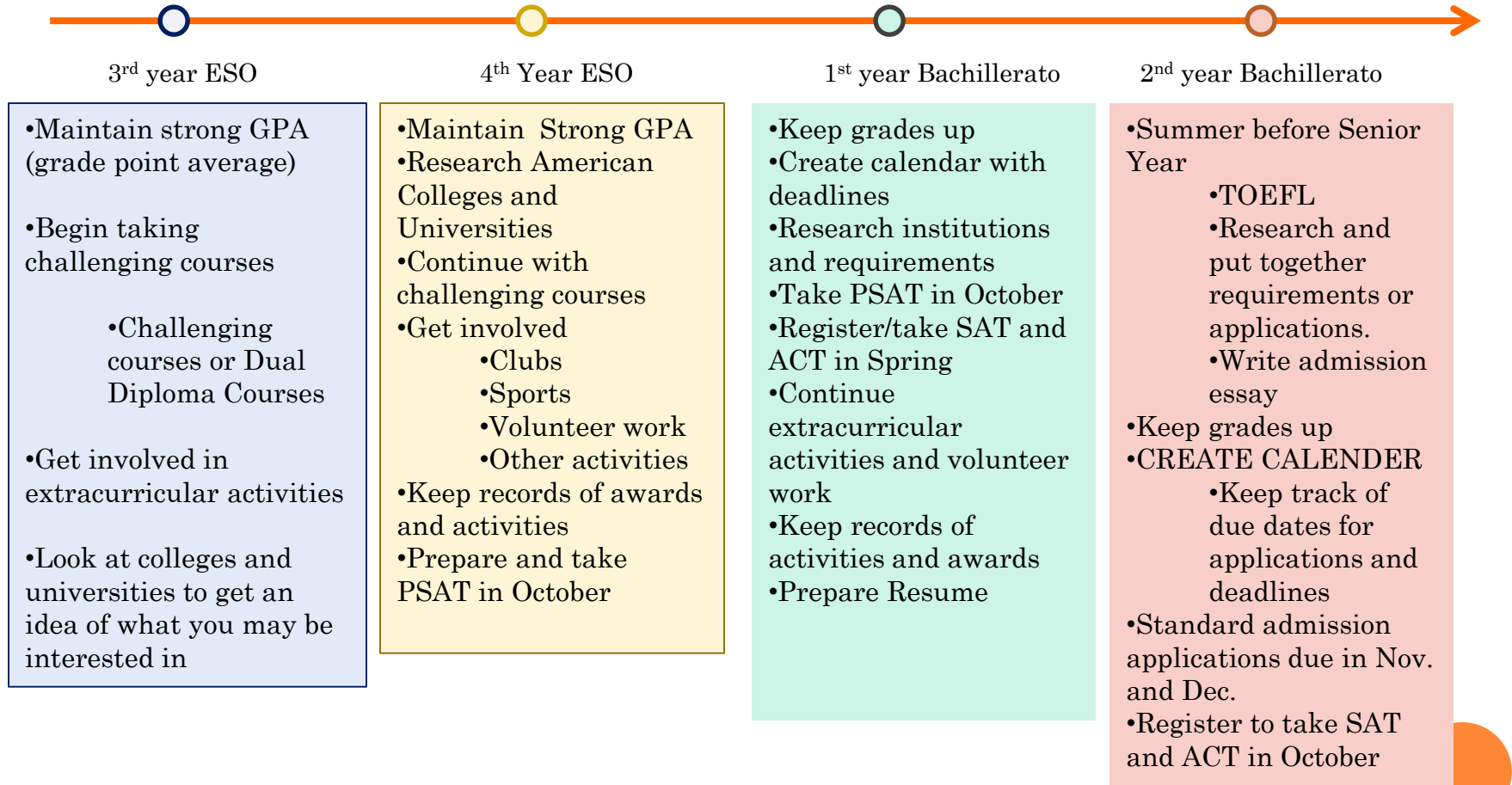


PLAN AND CREATE A TIMELINE FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGE. THIS INCLUDES...

- **PSAT**
 - Practice SAT taken in **Fall** of 3rd or 4th Year of ESO.
- **Time to prepare and take SAT and/or ACT**
 - This is generally taken once in **Spring** of the 1st Bachillerato Year
 - And once during **Fall** of the 2nd Bachillerato year.
- **TOEFL Test**
 - Required for many colleges
 - Dependent on school
- **Time to research schools**
 - The earlier the better. This makes positioning yourself for acceptance easier.
- **Record keeping**
 - Awards
 - Achievements
 - Activities
 - Resume
 - Letters of Recommendation
- **Time for completing applications**
- **Application Deadlines**
 - **For Early Acceptance**
 - In **Fall**
 - **For General Acceptance**
 - Usually in **November** and **December**. (**Highly Dependent on the institution**)



4 YEAR TIMELINE TO PREPARE FOR COLLEGE ADMISSION



2ND YEAR BACHILLERATO YEAR AT A GLANCE

- Take Tests SAT, ACT, and TOEFL in October
- Letters of recommendation
- Final list of schools
- Calendar keeping track of deadlines

- Deadline for Standard Admission Applications
(Institution Dependent)

Acceptance decision



Summer

Early Fall

November

Nov. / Dec.

Before April 1st

Before May 1st

- Create Calendar
- Finalize intended schools you are applying to
- Get as many requirements completed as you can
- Essays
- Recording Keeping
- Register for SAT, ACT, and or TOEFL
- Prepare for SAT, ACT, and or TOEFL

Apply only with understanding of conditions

Early Decision / Early Action Application Due

- Early Decision*** is binding
- DO NOT APPLY** for ***Early Decision*** unless you are absolutely sure you want to attend that specific school.
- You may only apply to one school for *Early Decision*.**
- Early Action*** is not binding

- Acceptance Letters
- If accepted, apply for Student Visa (F1)



COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

ASSESSING ACADEMIC READINESS

SAT

ACT

(International students usually perform better on ACT)

TOEFL

(Assesses English Proficiency)



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Each college or university may have different test requirements.
Make sure you research this information.



IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING TESTS

	SAT	ACT	TOEFL
Main info	http://sat.collegeboard.org/home	http://www.actstudent.org/	http://www.ets.org/toefl
Test Dates	OCT, NOV, DEC, JAN, MAY, JUN	SEPT, OCT, DEC, FEB, APR, JUN	Offered more than 50 times per year. Dependent on Region.
Deadline	About a month before Test	5-6 weeks before Test	7 days before Test
Registration	http://sat.collegeboard.org/register/sat-international-dates	http://www.actstudent.org/register/outside/	http://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/register/



WHAT IS ON THE TEST?

SAT	ACT	TOEFL
70 minutes – Reading (MC) 70 minutes – Math (MC) 60 minutes – Writing	45 minutes – English (MC) 60 minutes – Math (MC) 35 minutes – Reading (MC) 35 minutes – Science (MC) 30 minutes – Writing	60-80 minutes – Reading 60-90 minutes – Listening 10 minutes – Break 20 minutes – Speaking 50 minutes – Writing
http://sat.collegeboard.org/practice/sat-practice-questions	http://www.actstudent.org/testprep/descriptions/	https://www.ets.org/toefl/ibt/about/content/



KEEPING IT SIMPLE.

WHAT DO STUDENTS NEED TO DO?

1. **Look for / research schools**

- Should be tailored specifically for you and your interest

2. **Tests**

- Preparing, registering, and taking the following Tests
 - ACT (preferred by international students)
 - SAT
 - TOEFL
 - IELETS

3. **Final List of Schools**

- Make a list of top 4 schools (at minimum)
- Choose one 'Dream' school, two schools you think they'll have a very good chance of being accepted, and one "safety school"

4. **Find contact entities in each college for the application process**

- Can be found on the websites
- Dual Diploma advisors can help in this process



MORE LINKS AND GOODIES

- Finding the “Right” College:
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
 - <http://www.petersons.com/college-search.aspx>
 - <http://www.collegeview.com/collegesearch/index.jsp>
- Personality Assessments
 - <http://www.humanmetrics.com/cgi-win/JTypes2.asp>
 - <http://www.keirsey.com/sorter/register.aspx>
- Career Clusters Activity
 - <http://www.educationplanner.org/students/career-planning/find-careers/career-clusters.shtml>
 - <https://www.iseek.org/careers/clusterSurvey>

