



Education  
USA

101

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# U.S. Higher Education

- ✓ < 5,000 accredited institutions
- ✓ < 8,000 students from Hong Kong and Macau



# Undergraduate Programs

Differences between USA and other  
English Speaking Countries



# Paths to a U.S. Bachelor's Degree

Bachelor's Degree

2 years at a 4-year university/ college

2 years at a community college

4 years at a 4-year university/ college



Secondary School

# Early College for Age 16



Washington State

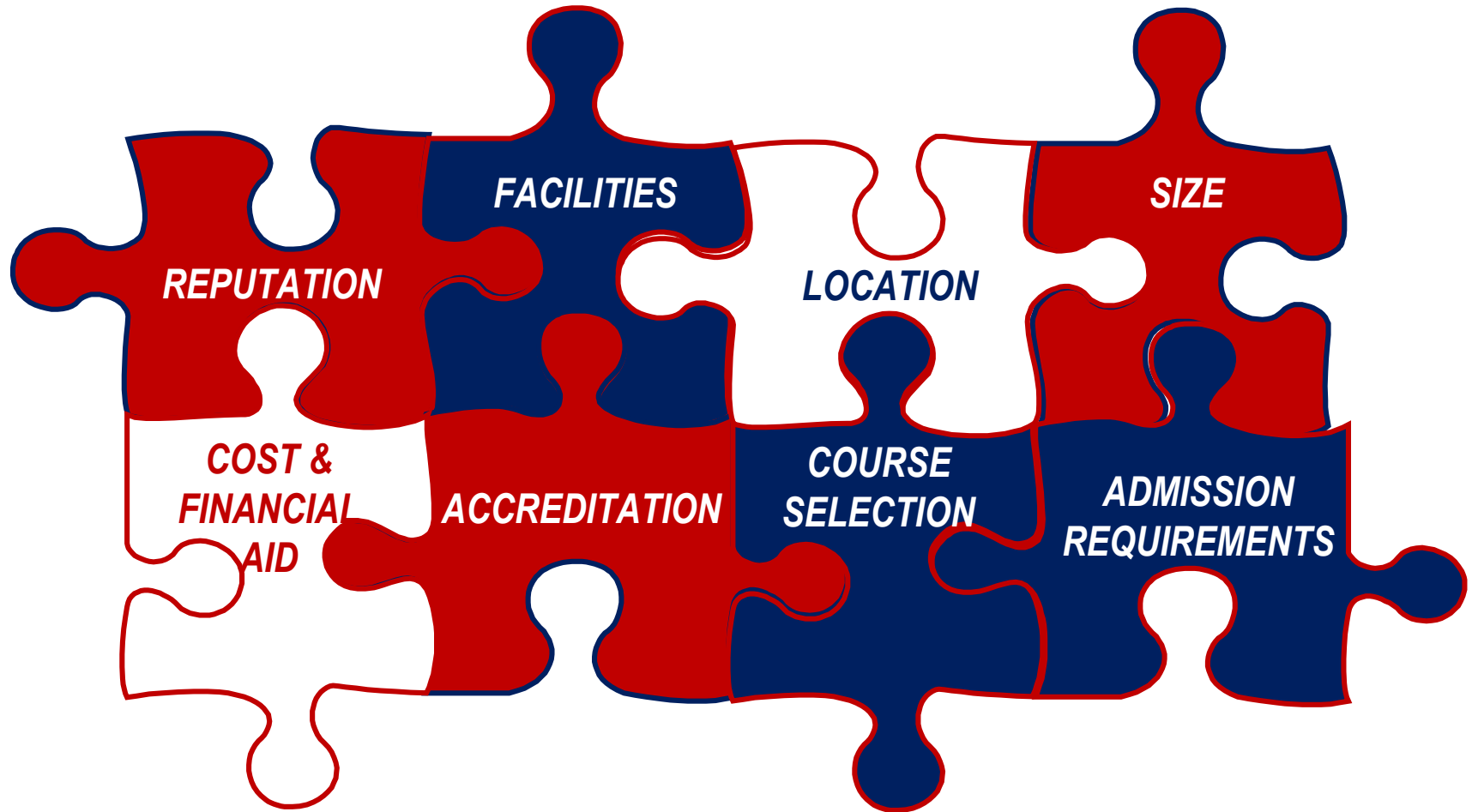
Some Community Colleges in California,  
Florida, New York, Colorado, etc.

# What is Liberal Arts Education?

- Focus heavily on student participation
- Creativity and critical thinking
- Value student-teacher interaction
- Liberal Arts Colleges:
  - Wellesley College, MA
  - Smith College, NY
  - Wesleyan University



# The Importance of Fit



# Types of Colleges and Costs

	<b>Community College (2 years)</b>	<b>Public University (4 years)</b>	<b>Private University (4 years)</b>
<b>Tuition and fees</b>	3730	26820	36880
<b>Room and board</b>	8990	11510	12990
<b>Books and supplies</b>	1460	1240	1240
<b>Transportation</b>	1840	1230	1060
<b>Other expenses</b>	2400	2170	1810
<b>Total</b>	18420	42970	53980



# Living Expenses

- \$10000 to \$12000 per year, which averages around \$800 to \$1000 per month.
- Includes accommodation costs, room, and board, food, travel, textbooks, weather appropriate clothing and entertainment expenses....

Item	Monthly Costs
Accommodation	\$200
Electricity	\$20
Groceries (home cooked meals)	\$150
International Calling cards	\$15
Home Internet	\$15
Cell phone	\$50
Restaurant meals	\$75
Entertainment	\$100
Car Insurance	\$100
Petrol for car	\$75
Weekend activities	\$100
Shopping	\$100
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1000</b>

*Note: These amounts will differ from state to state within the US*

# Scholarships/Financial Aids:

- Scholly 
- IEFA.org 
- [InternationalScholarships.com](http://InternationalScholarships.com)
- <https://www.fundingusstudy.org/>
- <https://www.internationalstudentloan.com/>
- <https://educationusa.state.gov>
- #youarewelcomehere
- Contact the institution individually

<https://hk.usconsulate.gov/education-culture/educationusa>



U.S. Consulate General Hong Kong & Macau



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## Scholarships and Financial Aid

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### Scholarships

- [Search for Scholarships on EducationUSA Facebook Page](#)
- [EducationUSA Global Guide to Finance your Studies](#)
- [Funding for U.S. Study Online](#)
- [Scholly – Scholarship Search Tool](#)
- [Scholarship Search – by My College Options](#)
- [International Scholarships](#)
- [Abroad Planet: Scholarships](#)
- [Mobility International USA: Free online scholarship resource for non-U.S. citizens with disabilities](#)
- [International Education Financial Aid: Scholarship Search](#)
- [Peterson's Scholarships](#)
- [College Board: Scholarship Search](#)
- [EduPASS](#)
- [Guaranteed Scholarships](#)
- [Fast Web](#)





## The Database of Accredited Postsecondary Institutions and Programs

OFFICE OF POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION

Accreditation &gt; Institution Search

[Click here to search for internships/residencies/programs](#)

Begin your search by entering and/or selecting criteria in the form below.

SEARCH BY INSTITUTION

SEARCH BY ACCREDITING AGENCY

## Current Agency Search

 [View the list of agencies](#)

## Institutional Accrediting Agencies ?

Any

## National agencies

- Accrediting Commission of Career Schools and Colleges
- Accrediting Council for Continuing Education and Training
- Association for Biblical Higher Education, Commission on Accreditation
- Association of Advanced Rabbinical and Talmudic Schools, Accreditation Commission
- Association of Institutions of Jewish Studies
- Council on Occupational Education

## Specialized or Programmatic Accrediting Agencies ?

Any...

## Specialized agencies

- Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Accreditation Council for Education in Nutrition and Dietetics
- Accreditation Commission for Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine
- Accreditation Commission for Education in Nursing, Inc. – May 6, 2013 Formerly: National League for Nursing Ac
- Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education
- Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education
- Accrediting Bureau of Health Education Schools

[If you cannot find an agency, click here to search for changes to the agency's name.](#)

## State or Outlying Area

Any...

- Alabama
- Alaska
- American Samoa
- Arizona

Search

Reset

# Accreditation

## <https://ope.ed.gov>

## College Matches

Get college suggestions based exclusively on your profile.

[Register Now](#)

**My College Options® Resource Center**  
 The My College Options® Resource Center provides up to date news and information for students and parents.



- ◆ Merit Scholarships
- ◆ Common Essay Questions
- ◆ Unassigned Reading List
- ◆ Meeting with College Admissions Representatives
- ◆ Tips for Navigating the College Admissions Maze

## College Search

### Search by Name

Enter a college name.

Search

### Browse Colleges

Find colleges by [location](#), [majors offered](#) or those [not requiring standardized tests](#).

### Search by Criteria

Use any or all of the filters below to find colleges that match your desired criteria.

▶ Type

▶ Location

▶ Academics & Programs

▼ Admission

#### Select Admission Criteria

##### High School Grade Point Average (GPA)

Include schools that do not report the average GPA of admitted students in search results.

##### Standardized Test Scores

Limit results to schools that do not require either SAT or ACT scores for admission.

##### Average SAT Combined Math and Reading Score

##### Average ACT Composite Score

Include schools that do not report the average SAT/ACT scores of admitted students in search results.

##### Transfer Admission

Yes, limit my results to those schools that report accepting transfer students (schools not reporting this information will be excluded from search results.)

Update Results

Clear Selections

▶ Athletics

▶ Cost & Aid

▶ Setting & Culture

# www.mycollegeoptions.org

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)  
[www.collegesimply.com](http://www.collegesimply.com)  
<https://www.niche.com>



# Admission Requirements

- SAT/ACT
- TOEFL/IELTS
- Personal statement
- Reference letter X2
- Contact Admission Officers



# Standardized Tests for U.S. College Admissions





# Major Difference between SAT and ACT

Category	SAT	ACT
Testing Time	3 hrs (plus 50 minute Essay)	2 hrs, 55 minutes (plus 40 minute Essay)
Components	Reading (65 mins) Math (No Calculator) (25 mins) Writing & Language (35 mins) Math (With Calculator) (55 mins) Essay (Optional)	English (45 mins) Math (60 mins) Reading (35 mins) Science Reasoning (35 mins) Essay (Optional)
Test Style and Format	Thinking Test / Paper Test	Speed Test / Online Test
Reading	<b>5</b> Reading Passages	<b>4</b> Reading Passages
Math Contents	Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry <b>Data Analysis</b>	Arithmetic Algebra I & II Geometry, Trigonometry
Essay Contents	Optional. The essay asks you to analyze an argument.	Optional. The essay asks you to evaluate and analyze complex issues.
Score	Scored on a scale of 400-1600 Essay scores 24 points	Scored on a scale of 1-36 Essay scores 36 points

# SAT/ACT Optional Schools

Alaska Pacific University	Anchorage	AK
Albright College	Reading	PA
Alcorn State University <sup>1, 3</sup>	Alcorn	MS
<b>Allegheny College</b> <a href="http://allegheny.edu/admissions">http://allegheny.edu/admissions</a>	<b>Meadville</b>	<b>PA</b>
Allen University	Columbia	SC
Alliant International University	San Diego	CA
Amberton University	Garland	TX
Ambridge University	Online	--
AMDA Academy and Conservatory	New York	NY
American Academy of Art	Chicago	IL
American Baptist College	Nashville	TN
American Indian College of the Assemblies of God	Phoenix	AZ
American InterContinental University	Multiple Sites	--
American International College	Springfield	MA
American Military University	Charles Town	WV
American Musical and Dramatic Academy	Los Angeles	CA
American National University	Multiple Locations	--
American Public University System	Online	--
American Sentinel University	Online	--
American University	Washington	DC
American University of Health Sciences <sup>6</sup>	Signal Hill	CA
American University of Puerto Rico	Bayamon	PR

<http://fairtest.org/university/optional>

# TOEFL iBT Test Structure

## TOEFL iBT

TOEFL Total Score: **0-120**

U.S. Colleges require **100 or above**.



# IELTS Test Structure

Listening\* (30 minutes, plus 10 minutes extra to transfer your answer to your answer sheet)

- Four recorded monologues and conversations

Reading (60 minutes)

- Three long reading passages with tasks
- Texts range from descriptive and factual to the discursive and analytical
- Includes non-verbal material such as diagrams, graphs or illustrations
- Texts are authentic (e.g. taken from books, journals and newspapers)

Writing (60 minutes)

- Writing task of at least 150 words where the candidate must summarise, describe or explain a table, graph, chart or diagram
- Short essay task of at least 250 words

Speaking\* (11 to 14 minutes)

- Face-to-face interview
- Includes short questions, speaking at length about a familiar topic and a structured discussion



**Total**  
**2 hours 45 minutes**

# Choosing Schools

- How many?
- Coalition App / Common App
- Individual Schools

The average SAT score for Top 75 colleges is **1280-1400**.  
Getting into the Ivy League requires a **1480**.

The average ACT score for Top 75 colleges is **28-32**.  
Getting into the Ivy League requires a **33**.

What is the purpose of the admission's essay(s)?



Do all universities require it?

# Is there a magic formula?

- respond to the prompt
- authenticity
- character
- memorable
- make yourself special as a Hong Konger
- Covid – what did you do?

# Covid Special.....

- SAT/ACT optional?
- Recommendation + Essay + Extra Curricular Activities become more important!
- Extras: write an app? help tutoring siblings? contribute to community? attend MOOCs? learn to cook for family? share as an Youtuber?

Check out: <http://bit.ly/FreeWRC> for Writing Resources



# Application Timeline

**One year before (during summer):** SAT/ACT prep and test

**September in final high school year:** Select schools, prepare applications, seek recommendations

**October:** Second/last opportunity to (re)take SAT/ACT

**November to January:** Submit University Applications

**February/March:** Results out for universities

**May/June:** Application for community colleges (rolling admissions)

**Jul/Aug: Visa Application**

**September for first year of undergraduate program:** School starts



# College Openings Update: Options for Qualified Students

<https://www.nacacnet.org/news--publications/Research/openings/>

## Colleges with Later Application Deadlines

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/late-applications>

## College Application Deadlines

<https://www.collegesimply.com/guides/application-deadlines/>

## Schools With Rolling Admissions

<https://blog.prepscholar.com/colleges-with-rolling-admissions>

**OPT** is **Optional Practical Training** for International

Students who are studying in the USA under the F1 visa allowing work rights.

General: 1 year

STEM-related: Up to 3 years



Work Visa?



• **Email:** [hkeducationusa@state.gov](mailto:hkeducationusa@state.gov)



• **Tel/Whatsapp:** 6829 4053



• **Global Website:** <https://educationusa.state.gov>



• **Hong Kong Website:** <http://educationusa.hk/>



• **Facebook:** [USAinHKMacau](https://www.facebook.com/USAinHKMacau)



