

WHAT COLLEGES LOOK FOR IN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS

Just as every college is different, so too are the criteria and priorities in each college's admission process.

- 1** Academic Rigor: Evidence of success with challenging curriculum, such as AP or Dual Enrollment courses.
- 2** High GPA in major subjects. *However, slightly lower grades in AP courses are preferred to all A's in less challenging courses.*
- 3** High scores on standardized tests (ACT). These should be consistent with high school performance.
- 4** A well written essay that emphasizes insight into the student's unique personality.
- 5** Student's character and values are seen as conducive to being a good community member.
- 6** Involvement in a few *meaningful* extracurricular activities either in school or outside of school.
- 7** Depth of study in areas such as foreign language or mathematics.
- 8** Leadership inside or outside of school. Depth, rather than breadth, of leadership is valued.
- 9** Strong counselor / teacher recommendations that provide personalized references.
- 10** Special talents that could contribute to campus life.



Adapted list from IECA. www.IECAonline.com

