

Letters of Recommendation

- Who to ask.** Teachers, coaches, counselors, mentors, employers. Any adult (besides family members) who can vouch for your character.
- Ask **"Can I count on you for a positive letter of recommendation?"** It's better to not send any letter than to send a letter that highlights a negative.
- Provide a list of accomplishments**, portfolio, and/or resume to the person writing your recommendation. Also provide them with the application form and a stamped envelope.
- Give them your information** at least two to four weeks before the recommendation is due.
- Send a thank-you note.** They just did you a huge favor!



College Admissions

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What Type of College or University Will Fit You Best?



- Larger School vs. Smaller School
- Public vs. Private
- Religious vs. Secular
- In-State vs. Out-of-State
- Well-known School vs. Lesser-known School
- Urban Environment vs. Rural Environment
- Commuter vs. Residential

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Financial Aid Facts

- 70% of all full-time students receive financial aid.
- 70% of financial aid comes from the federal government.
- Fill out **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** form to apply for federal aid.
- Contact groups such as religious organizations, community and civic groups, employers or unions, to ask if they offer grants or loans.
- Ask your college about financial aid options.



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Many Paths to College



- Four-Year College**
The most popular option. You will graduate sooner, and go to school with peers.
- Community College**
Cost-effective option. Transferring into a prestigious university may be easier than getting admitted as a freshman.
- Year Off**
Earn some money for college, intern to gain job experience, travel, or volunteer.

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Application Checklist

- Application Form
- Official Transcript
- Test Results
- SAT or ACT, AP scores
- Personal Essay
- Letters of Recommendation
- Application Fee



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Where Should You Apply to College?



Apply to six schools

Two "Reach" Schools

Most students here have higher test scores and GPAs than you do. There is about a 25% chance that you will be admitted.

Two "Just Right" Schools

Your scores and GPA fall within the median range of students at the university.

Two "Safe" Schools

You are virtually assured of being admitted. Your test scores and GPA are higher than most who attend these colleges.

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