



HSINCHU COUNTY AMERICAN SCHOOL
新竹縣美國學校

College Counseling Handbook

Hsinchu County American School
No.189, Gaotie 2nd Rd.
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Section One

Overview



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Introduction

This handbook was created to give students an overview of college application. This handbook has elements adopted from the College Counseling Handbook from Tsinghua International School, as well as New York City Department of Education's College Planning Handbook. The handbook should serve as a basic guide to college applicant. Should you have any questions, please consult the college counselor.

As you progress from Grade 9 through Grade 12, searching for college will be a reoccurring theme. Upon entering Grade 9, you will be required to begin to explore choices after graduating from HCAS. You will be briefed on our college application program within the first two weeks of school.

College application is a stressful process for the student and the parents, which is why we have created this handbook to streamline the steps. The college counselor's duties are to help students choose the most suitable school and to make the process as stress-free as possible. There are some matters that students should be aware of:

- Patience- One big source of stress during the whole college application is the waiting period. The waiting period between application submission and school responses is very agonizing, but understand that this is an inescapable process. Instead of waiting anxiously, students should try to maintain their grades and to alternatively release the stress.
- Be confident- Even students with good grades will have moments of self-doubt. Don't be discouraged because the feeling is natural and it happens to everyone. If you ever need consultations, you are always welcomed to talk to your teachers.



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We are very fortunate to have you joining our high school. We understand that each student is unique and not all students will want to have the same career path. It is our job to help students explore all the possibilities beyond HCAS. It is our hope that by the end of the long application process, you will be a productive contributor to your community and the world. We look forward to working with you and your family.

Misconceptions About College Application Process

There are many misconceptions about college application and we have listed some of the most common false information. You may wish to speak to the college counselor about these points. Read them over and think about what could possibly make these points untrue.

1. There is only one right college/university for you.
2. There is no way my family will be able to afford the tuition.
3. The cost of a college is a good, or even the best, indicator of the quality of education.
4. The more selective the college is, the higher the quality of education is at that particular school.
5. The better a college, the higher its ranking will be on different agencies' rankings.
6. Standardized test scores are the most important factor in an admission decision.
7. The only good colleges are the Ivy League schools.
8. Future employers and graduate schools prefer those who have graduated from a prestigious university.



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9. It doesn't matter whether you go to a small rural college or a large university in an urban setting, as long as the school has a famous name.
10. Admission to the "best" graduate schools is more likely if you have attended one of the "best" undergraduate schools.
11. You should decide where you want to go early in Grade 11.
12. Your choice of a major will decide your career path, so it is important to decide your major when you apply.
13. Since my interview went well, I am definitely admitted.
14. Colleges always choose the best students.
15. You have received a conditional offer from a university, now you can slack off from school.
16. You should choose a school solely based on rankings.



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Responsibilities

Topic	Our Responsibilities	Students' Responsibilities
Developing a College List	Help direct students toward resources, make suggestions, assess likelihood of admission	Identify area of interests, conduct research, create a list of appropriate colleges, including safeties
Test Registration	Discuss testing plans with student, submission deadlines, advise venue for tests	Discuss testing options and plans with college counselor, know and meet all deadlines, complete and submit forms
Applications	Provide general advice about completing applications; check applications, provide feedback	Use college application program to ensure applications are done properly, send application to counselor prior to actual submission, knowing not all schools use common app
Essays	Provide advice about essay writing; discuss options for essays help; review and provide feedbacks	Know each college's essay question(s); seek feedback but write your own essay; proofread, turn in draft early
Application Fees	N/A	Be sure to include fees with all application; make sure to get receipt
Transcripts I	Send transcripts to all students who has requested one, including any transcript(s) from other schools	Request transcript from counselor for college application, request final transcript from previous high



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		school.
Transcript II	Send final transcript in June to the ONE college that student will attend	Inform counselor the college of choice and request transcript to be sent there
Teacher Recommendations	Advise student about recommendation choices; provide teacher with suggestions on recommendation letters.	Choose wisely as for which teacher to ask for recommendation letter. It should be done as early as possible.
Test Score Reports	Provide information re: how and when to send scores reports.	Sent test score reports to colleges by direct request to testing organization
Financial Aid/Scholarships	Provide information about financial aid and scholarships	Meet deadlines, know each college's financial aid and scholarship requirement
Final Decision/Enrollment deposits	Consult with students about their final decision.	Inform office of all college application decisions, send an enrollment deposit by deadline
Early Decisions/Early Actions/Rolling Admission	Discuss the pros and cons of early decisions.	Early decisions are BINDING (Once accepted you must attend the college). You MUST withdraw all other applications.
Applying to non-Western schools	Provide support, recommendations, and any other necessary documents.	Inform office of intentions to apply to non-Western schools. You must be aware of any entrance exam for the school.
College Visits	The school will arrange different tiers and types of colleges to come to HCAS.	Raise any questions you might have about the school.



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Section Two

Grade 8



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Knowing Who You Are Part I

Congratulations! Your middle school life is about to end but high school life is just around the corner. By now, you should know which subject(s) you enjoy and which ones you are not particularly fond of. If you do not know, that is normal. Don't be scared if you see some students already planning out everything for the next 4 years of high school. Things change all the time so just use this year to explore your own interests.

It is important to know your own abilities as taking classes beyond or under your own level will not help. We want our classes to challenge you, but not overwhelm you. In spring time, we will be having course selection. As a Grade 8 student, you will not have that many options to choose a particular course yet, but you will be able to choose some courses according to your interest and abilities.

For most of our students, it is recommended studying either Spanish or French in order to learn the basics of the languages. Spanish is one of the most widely-spoken languages in the world and it is a very useful language to know in the United States, while French is another widely-spoken language in Europe and elsewhere. We strongly recommend students to take Spanish if they wish to study in the United States. Students will also be able to pick either Geometry or Algebra I. If you are mathematically inclined, you should consider taking Algebra I. If you think Algebra is too hard then you should take Geometry instead. In case you think Algebra I is too easy then we might be able to let you take more advanced classes such as Algebra II or even Pre-calculus.

You should start looking at volunteering opportunities or join a sports team. Many universities admission take extracurricular activities into consideration so, if you do this on a long term basis, then it can only help your chance of getting admitted into university in the



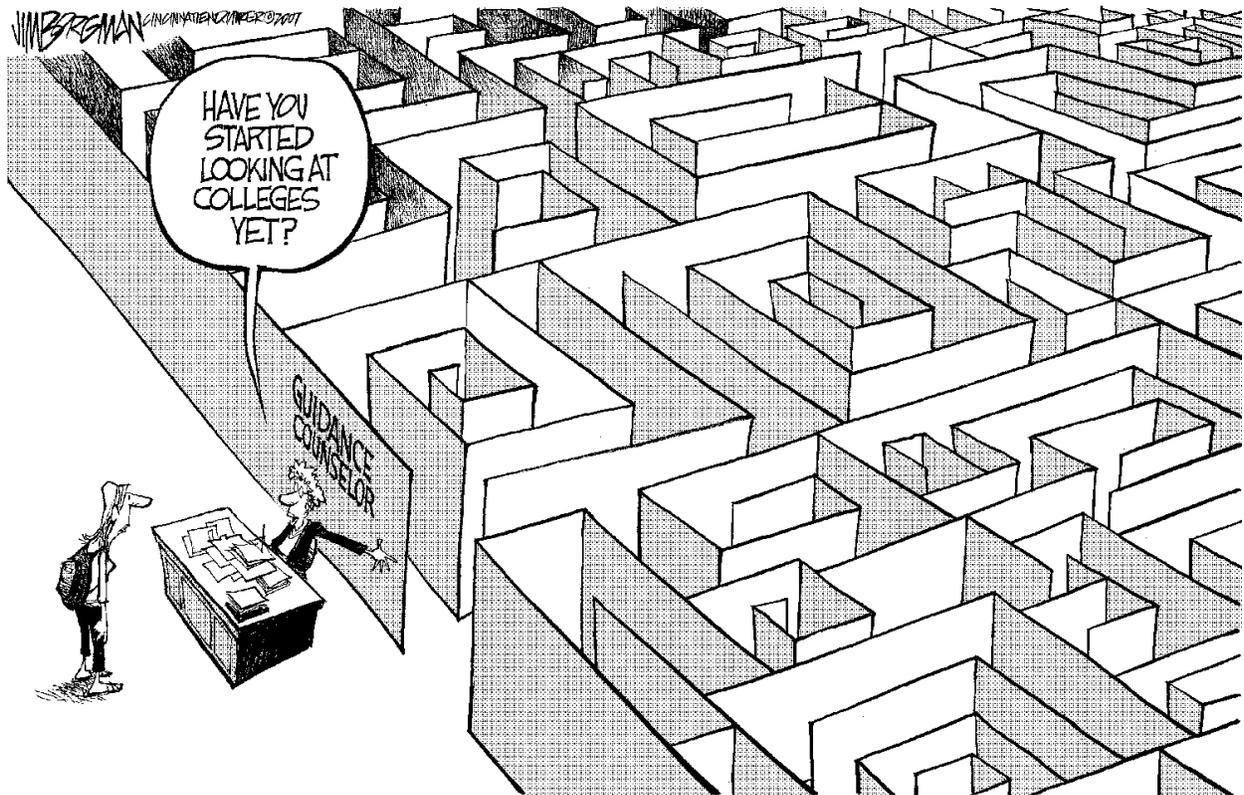
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Grade 9



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Let's begin with something light...



1

¹ Jim Borgman, "Juniors prepare for the college admissions process,"
<https://www.fhsvie.com/opinions/2018/04/26/juniors-and-college/>, April 26th, 2018



There are literally thousands of colleges in the world. Navigating them all is impossible but it is something that will be very interesting for you to go through. Before you get to know the schools, do you actually know yourself? Maybe you should get to know yourself a little better before deciding on what kind of future you envision for yourself.

Knowing Who You Are Part II

You high school life has just begun and you have probably noticed that you are beginning to receive a lot of emails from the college counselor. Why are you receiving those emails? Well, you are getting close to that age where you have to think about what you want to do after high school. Take a look at the list below and think about your answers.

Your Goals and Values

- What is success? How would you define success? What do you want to achieve in the next few years of high school?
- What would you change about yourself?
- Is there anything you have secretly tried to do or be?
- How would you describe yourself? Who has been the biggest influence in your life?

Your Education

- Which subject in school interests you the most? Why? Which subject in school do you have trouble with? Why?



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- How do you learn? Do you like a competitive classroom environment or a somewhat laid-back environment? Do you prefer working independently or do you enjoy working as a group? Do you need your parents' motivation in order to move forward with your studies?
- Do you want to attend a college/university that will challenge you or do you want to attend an institution that is within your comfort zone?
- Do you like to read and discuss ideas? What has been your most stimulating intellectual experience in the past year?

Your Activities and Interests

- What are your academic interests? There must be some courses that you enjoy more than others. Why did you enjoy those courses?
- How do you learn best? Some people thrive under a competitive environment while some prefer a more laid-back environment. Do you prefer group learning or would you rather study by yourself? Are you self-motivated or do you require attention from teachers or parents?
- Do you want to attend a college/university that will challenge you to reach your potential in all areas, or do you want to attend one where you will be able to stretch where you feel is best?
- Are there any outside circumstances that might interfere with your academic performance?



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- What kind of extracurricular activity do you enjoy both from school and from the community? Would the activity influence your decision on choosing a college/university?
- Do your activities show a pattern of contribution to other individuals?
- Do you need be in charge of activities or group or do you prefer let someone else be in charge?

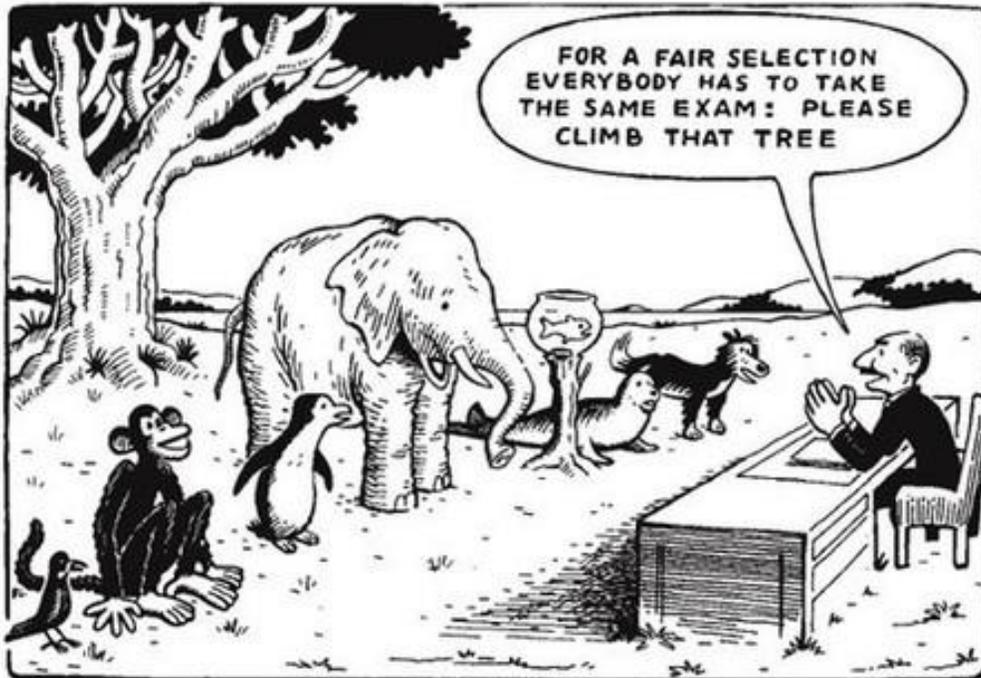
Your Personality and Relationships with Others

- How would someone who knows you well describe you? Your best qualities? Your shortcomings? Do you think you would agree with the assessment? How do you think you have changed in the last few years?
- How do you interact with your peers? Do you think you are an initiator or a follower? What causes stress in your life and what alleviates them? Do you feel you are open and tolerant of differences or do you prefer to spend time with people who emulate you?
- How do you respond to pressure, competition, or challenges? How do you react to failure, disappoint, and criticism? How do you resolve your negative emotions?
- Do you want to be a big fish in a small pond or a small fish in a big pond?

Why do you need to know about yourself? If you don't even know yourself, how would you stand out from other people? How can you stand out from thousands of other applicants few years from now when applying to schools? Schools in the US and the UK place emphasis on individuality as they will look at the make-up of the student, his or her identity. Grades and exam results are important but they are not everything.



Schools will also evaluate each candidate's character and decide to see if they are a good fit to the school.



2

Where Should I Go?

So where should you go for college/university? The truth is...there is no right answer. You still have a few years before your final decision but you should take lots of factors into consideration. Do you want to study in a specific school, program, or a specific country? The factors can be endless but the chart below lists some of the more common ones. We will take a look at country and ranking.

Country

As you know, there are many outstanding universities outside of Taiwan and we encourage you to explore the advantages of studying in different countries.

² Micah Russel, "The Education System: "Now Climb That Tree", "
<https://marquetteeducator.wordpress.com/2012/07/12/climbthattree/>, July 12th, 2012



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United States

Advantages	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Home to some of the most renowned colleges/universities in the world2. Great diversity3. Academic flexibility4. Ample number of schools
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Canada

Advantages	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Great diversity2. Academic flexibility3. Cheaper tuition
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United Kingdom

Advantages	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Best universities selection after the United States2. Great diversity3. Cheaper tuition4. Takes 3 years to complete a degree
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Japan

Advantages	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Location2. Cheaper tuition3. Great for students who want to work in Japan or for Japanese companies.
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Germany

Advantages	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Free tuition2. Great for students who want to work in Germany or within the EU.
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HCAS does not have a preference as to which country you want to go but we will try our best to analyze what is best for you and your family. If you are thinking about going to Japan or Germany, there are schools with English programs where you will not need to know Japanese or German in order for you to finish your degree (yet we recommend learning the language regardless). Schools with English programs in Japan and Germany are likewise limited; therefore you might be confined to specific universities as opposed to America, UK, or Canada. If you want to go to a public university in Japan, there is a good chance that you must take the Examination for Japanese University Admission for International Students. For more information on the exam, please visit: <https://www.jasso.go.jp/en/eju/index.html>

Ranking

Ranking is a good indicator to judge a school's academic performance **HOWEVER**, students should know that different companies conduct their rankings differently and some might not actually take academic performance into consideration. For example, according to the Times Higher Ranking, the number one ranked school is the University of Oxford, but the QS ranking states that Massachusetts Institute of Technology is the top school. Long story short, ranking is important, but you should do your own research in order to get to know more about the college/university. You should also analyze the reputation of the program(s) that interests you, you might be surprised the program ranking might not reflect the ranking of the overall school. Please take a look at the ranking sites below to get a basic idea of each school's placement:



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For world ranking:

Time Higher Education

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/world-university-rankings>

QS World University Ranking

<https://www.topuniversities.com/qs-world-university-rankings>

For American college/university ranking:

Forbes

<https://www.forbes.com/top-colleges/list/>

US News

<https://www.usnews.com/best-colleges>

Money Magazine

<http://time.com/money/best-colleges/>

For Canadian university ranking:

Canada does not have a dedicated comprehensive ranking publication but rather, its most popular ranking publication is from an acclaimed magazine called MacLean's.

MacLean's

<http://www.macleans.ca/education/university-rankings/>

For United Kingdom



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You will be able to find the ranking for British schools on most ranking sites such as Times Higher Education and QS. The Guardian (British newspaper) conducts an annual ranking based primarily on the students' satisfaction which deviates from other standard ranking publications.

<https://www.theguardian.com/education>

For other countries

You can find ranking for other countries on ranking sites such as Times Higher Education and QS.

HALE EDUCATION GROUP

HCAS will provide support for all of our high school students in terms of university application. Therefore we work with Hale, a highly-respected international education group that primarily assists students applying for US colleges, but they also help students who are interested in the UK as well. Hale has successfully helped students granted admission to various top colleges such as Columbia, Harvard, Stanford, and other well-respected colleges across the United States. Hale regularly sends representatives to HCAS to work with high school students. The collaboration between HCAS and Hale is to ensure students that they can find the university that best suits their needs.

Your first meeting with a Hale representative will be sometime in Grade 9. The first meeting is to disclose your interest(s) and to learn more about American education. Parents are encouraged to attend as well. You will continue to meet the representative ever few months so he/she can offer suggestions on your academic progress. Towards the end of the school year, the representative will offer possibilities for summer activities.



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When you progress to Grade 10, Hale will continue to offer advice. At that time, some of the advice will be focused on looking at universities. In Grade 11, students will have scheduled Skype meetings with Hale in order to keep track of the most recent academic reports. Hale will also work with students, based on their academic record, to begin selecting the universities that they will apply to the following year. The students will work with Hale on writing their essay/personal statement. Hale will also advise you on taking either the SAT or the ACT. Hale will continue to work with students in Grade 12, especially on personal statements and narrowing down possibilities.

For more information, please go to Hale's official website at www.haleeducation.com

College Application Program- BridgeU

By now, you should have received an email regarding to BridgeU. What is BridgeU? BridgeU is a college application program that can assist with your search on your dream school and actual application. Being in Grade 9, you don't have to worry about many of the functions in BridgeU, but you are encouraged to play around with the program.

You can start off by answering the questionnaire. Please note that your answers will directly impact the search result. You can change your answers at any time and at this stage, you are recommended to try to input different Grade Point Averages in order to see the range of colleges/universities. You will then be prompted to choose your academic interests and you should select all the subjects that you plan to pursue. You will then answer questions such as preferred size, location, campus setting, and other questions. The preferred geographic location of the United States and Canada can impact your search result as well since the program will automatically filter out schools in the undesired regions. Whenever you receive your report card with your updated GPA, you should input your new grades in BridgeU to see if your search result changes.



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Even if you have already made up your mind about studying in a specific country, you should still check other countries, you might be surprised to see what kind of school that you can apply to with your GPA. All of the universities listed in BridgeU are English medium or with English programs available. For example, most universities in the Netherlands conduct their classes in either Dutch or English.

A screenshot of a survey question on the BridgeU platform. The question is "Which of these countries would you consider studying in?". The options are: Hong Kong, Netherlands, Canada (selected with a green checkmark), United States of America, United Kingdom, and Australia*. The interface includes a red header with "Basic information", a green footer with "PREV" and "NEXT" buttons, and a search icon in the bottom right corner.

Figure 1. You should keep your mind open about studying in different countries.



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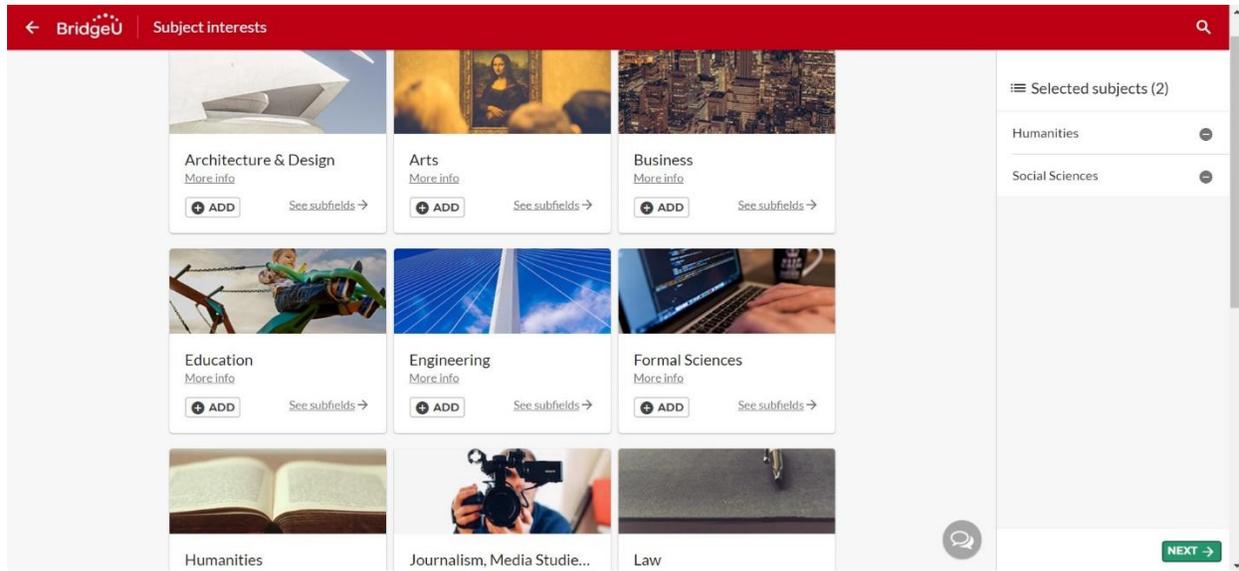


Figure 2. You can select your academic interests

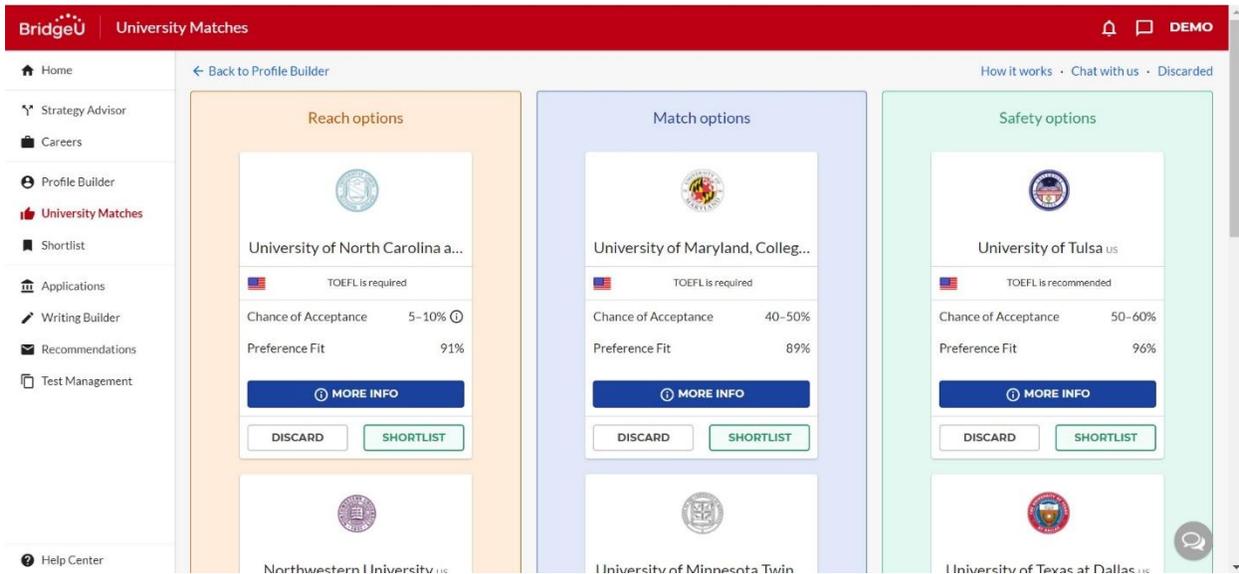


Figure 3. The search result page will change depending on your answers

Course Selection



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Every spring, we will begin our course selection process and it is something not to be taken lightly. Course selection is one of the most important things that you will ever do in your high school life, so you should think hard on what really interests you and what you would like to study in the future. By now, you should have noticed that you probably do better in certain subjects. Perhaps that is an indicator of what you can possibly study after high school. If you are unsure, please talk to any of your teachers or the college counselor.

AP Classes

On your course selection form, you will notice that there are some classes that have the letters AP. AP stands for Advanced Placement. AP classes are not easy classes as they are college level classes and they are considered to be some of the most difficult in high school.

There are some major advantages with taking an AP class:

1. You can get a taste of what college classes are like.
2. Your grade will be raised slightly. This is to reward your effort in taking the AP class.
3. College admission officers like to see students with AP classes on their transcript.
4. You can get college credits!

Yes, you can get college credits for taking an AP class but there is a catch: you must first pass the AP Exam! Every January, students who take an AP class will be able to register for an AP exam. You do not have to register for the exam but that also means you will not be able to get college credits. AP Exams take place every May and requires students to submit a test fee. You can only take an AP class after you fulfill all the prerequisites. Should you have questions about whether or not that you want to take an AP class, you should talk to the subject teacher to get a better sense of the class. You must take the exam in order to get the college credits, however, you do not have to take the AP course for you to take the exam.



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If you are able to speak and write in Mandarin Chinese you should find AP Chinese exams to be very easy. Many of our students at HCAS are raised in Taiwan so we encourage those students to try to take the AP Chinese exam. The AP Chinese exam is the equivalent level of a Taiwanese Grade 4 Chinese exam so most native speakers should not have any trouble whatsoever. Our students who had taken the AP Chinese Exam have all scored a perfect 5! You do not have to worry about writing as you only need to type and you can choose to type the test in Pinyin (拼音) or Zhuyin (注音). You can choose from traditional and simplified Chinese.

A handful of universities require you to take certain AP classes, so please manage your course selection in order to meet all of the prerequisites requested by universities. In many British universities, they require students from schools that use an AP curriculum to have attended AP classes for application. Many of the British universities will ask students to have between 3 and 5 AP classes.

AP Exam scores are out of 5 and we expect our students to score at least a 4. Most respectable universities will not consider an AP Exam score of 3 or lower to be acceptable for college credits. Therefore students should aim for 4 or a 5.

AP Exam Score	Recommendation	College Course Grade Equivalent
5	Extremely well qualified	A+ or A
4	Very well qualified	A-, B+ or B
3	Qualified	B-, C+ or C
2	Possibly qualified	
1	No recommendation	



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For a more comprehensive read on AP results, please check the statistics from the 2018 exams on the next page. The stats is a comparison between Taiwanese students and students who had taken AP exams outside of the United States.



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Score	IBes	Sem	Art Hist	Mus/Theo	Stu Art 2D	Stu Art 3D	Stu Art Draw	Eng Lang Comp	Eng Lit Comp	Comp Gov Pol	Euro Hist	Hum Geog	Mastr Econ	Micro Econ	Psyc	US Gov Pol	US Hist	World Hist
5	4	7	4	15	28	11	10	65	26	12	20	24	120	111	109	43	47	34
4	3	19	5	2	28	13	11	50	54	12	26	30	60	76	55	13	69	32
3	3	30	5	6	21	5	8	34	29	6	16	17	16	17	18	15	52	12
2	2	5	5	5	5	2	2	10	20	8	3	10	13	13	16	6	21	7
1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2	7	3	3	3	4	12	17	13	5	8	8
Taiwan																		
Total Number of Exams																		
	10	56	20	28	84	31	31	166	132	41	65	85	221	234	211	82	197	85
Mean Score																		
	4.10	3.59	3.30	3.96	3.89	4.06	3.94	3.94	3.61	3.54	3.97	3.71	4.19	4.07	4.09	4.01	3.64	4.09
Standard Deviation																		
	0.88	0.71	1.22	1.23	1.02	0.89	0.93	1.10	1.04	1.31	0.87	1.14	1.14	1.19	1.21	1.25	1.08	0.93
Total Schools																		
	2	3	6	13	12	2	8	10	12	6	4	13	19	22	20	11	13	10
Global																		
Total Number of Exams																		
	5	1,128	2,617	3,178	4,338	6,596	661	4,739	61,897	22,970	5,206	12,338	28,435	28,974	18,867	66,482	43,616	54,342
Mean Score																		
	4	2,369	5,353	6,126	3,598	11,384	1,362	6,692	103,525	59,083	5,991	20,598	43,338	33,194	25,152	82,503	45,437	93,825
Standard Deviation																		
	3	3,983	17,846	6,894	4,734	13,157	7,546	168,069	110,918	4,858	26,616	47,018	33,950	17,282	56,896	86,588	115,594	84,269
Total Number of Exams																		
	2	1,963	4,655	6,259	4,328	4,550	1,537	1,944	170,869	146,106	5,124	30,894	37,059	24,676	13,829	46,430	79,922	114,845
Mean Score																		
	1	500	739	2,619	2,298	1,247	258	346	79,144	67,896	3,998	12,827	62,650	36,452	15,116	62,550	74,231	129,688
Standard Deviation																		
	3.17	3.14	3.04	3.17	3.47	3.11	3.64	2.83	2.56	3.12	2.89	2.72	2.96	3.21	3.14	2.70	2.66	2.78
Total Schools																		
	1.03	0.85	1.19	1.33	1.03	1.06	0.98	1.19	1.10	1.38	1.21	1.40	1.47	1.30	1.43	1.31	1.32	1.19
Total Schools																		
	591	1,158	2,138	3,264	5,123	1,646	4,254	13,538	14,032	1,539	4,576	5,457	5,470	4,446	9,036	9,701	13,424	7,458

Score	Calc BC	Comp Sci A	Comp Sci Prin	Stat	Biol	Chem	Env Sci	Phys 1	Phys 2	Phys C: E M	Phys C: Mech	Chin Lang	Form Lang	Germ Lang	Ital Lang	Japan Lang	Lat	Span Lang	Spain Lit
5	156	172	63	9	63	35	75	22	41	20	58	65	488	1	2		14	9	3
4	77	40	33	3	55	112	58	27	47	18	12	23	20	4	1	1	1	13	3
3	48	35	23	1	41	58	44	14	47	21	4	9	9	3			11	1	5
2	23	22	5	23	18	23	19	44	9	7	2	2					1	1	1
1	11	4	14	3	19	21	23	13	21	13	14	5					4	1	
Taiwan																			
Total Number of Exams																			
	315	273	138	13	197	223	207	90	191	69	83	104	517	8	3	31	3	28	6
Mean Score																			
	4.09	4.30	3.91	4.62	3.65	3.74	3.83	3.40	3.32	3.68	4.41	4.36	4.93	3.75	4.67	3.65	2.67	4.07	4.50
Standard Deviation																			
	1.12	1.06	1.30	0.65	1.25	0.82	1.14	1.31	1.22	1.08	1.07	1.05	0.32	0.71	0.58	1.43	1.53	0.81	0.55
Total Schools																			
	24	24	19	3	19	21	23	13	21	13	14	16	27	2	3	9	1	3	1
Global																			
Total Number of Exams																			
	5	60,045	16,161	10,189	32,538	18,664	21,659	14,634	9,626	9,410	17,408	9,512	3,906	1,152	551	1,266	922	43,894	2,693
Mean Score																			
	4	53,506	26,083	13,867	15,313	47,327	28,570	39,955	26,299	4,032	5,658	15,723	1,777	6,072	1,163	549	249	1,292	65,046
Standard Deviation																			
	3	65,112	28,972	14,265	26,225	55,764	85,517	40,411	33,719	8,865	3,985	11,374	1,902	8,185	1,339	967	516	2,055	56,845
Total Number of Exams																			
	2	69,351	20,395	7,745	14,754	35,587	38,192	43,150	49,092	7,534	4,072	7,310	540	4,344	1,126	646	218	1,469	20,399
Mean Score																			
	1	62,212	7,844	13,333	8,162	26,574	33,553	44,384	52,989	1,991	2,576	5,773	778	1,115	394	306	375	689	3,051
Standard Deviation																			
	3.74	3.18	3.06	2.87	2.79	2.63	2.37	2.97	2.5101	57,588	14,509	23,622	5,174	3,019	3,170	2,624	5,427	189,135	
Total Schools																			
	1.40	1.28	1.45	1.18	1.37	1.08	1.31	1.33	1.22	1.13	1.39	1.16	1.09	1.24	1.23	1.48	1.20	1.00	
Total Schools																			
	14,419	7,969	5,301	4,070	9,340	11,602	9,409	6,662	7,554	2,456	2,636	4,449	2,010	3,414	1,143	494	654	1,112	

³ AP® Online Reports, "School Summary with Comparable Groups," <https://www.collegeboard.org/>, August 24th,



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Summer Plan

What should you do during summer? You're not just going to lie on the couch and do nothing, right? Admission officers actually take notice of how you spend your summer. If you were the admission officer, who would you rather admit a student who volunteers during summer or a student who just plays video games the entire summer? The answer is quite obvious, so you should spend your summer wisely instead of wasting away. You can take classes to enrich yourself or you can volunteer.

You can make your college application much more competitive by including meaningful summer activities. You can choose to volunteer. This is a great way for you to make new friends, sharpen your social skills, and make connections which might prove to be valuable in the future. For example, you can look up Hsinchu County or Hsinchu City's tourism bureau to see if they need an English guide. Museums usually need English guides and this is where your English ability would come in handy. If you enjoy volunteering, then we definitely recommend you continue because admission officers value dedication. Don't forget, after you finish volunteering, you need to get a certificate form so you would have proof of all your hard work.

If you want to take classes during the summer, you are definitely welcome to do so as well. You can consider taking either SAT or TOEFL preparation classes depending on your needs. If you struggle a bit with English, you should certainly consider taking TOEFL as the lessons help with your writing for your future English classes. If you are confident with your English abilities then you could consider taking preparatory classes for the SAT. SAT classes not only teach students on how to score a high mark on SAT, but they also teach general testing tips. HCAS will be offering both kinds of classes and you will receive more information in spring. The classes are not mandatory but they are very helpful for future exams.



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Another thing that you can do for your summer is that you can travel abroad! You can travel to different countries and visit the universities there. For most universities, you can sign up

for a tour of the campus and this is a very effective way of learning about universities as you do not have to wait for college visits at HCAS. You can consider these English-speaking countries for your travel: United States, Canada, United Kingdom, Australia, or Singapore. You may also wish to look into these non-English speaking countries as many of their schools offer English language programs: the Netherlands, Germany, Japan, or Hong Kong. If you need suggestions on which schools to visit, you may consult the representative from HALE for more information. Traveling abroad is also a good way to test your English and experience a foreign culture.

Alternatively, you can sign up for university classes from abroad. This can be done in two ways: you can sign up for online classes offered by many top schools such as Harvard or MIT. Or you can also go abroad and takes the classes in person! The best thing about these online classes is that they are mostly free and cover a wide arrange of topics. Some universities offer college credit which means you can challenge yourself by taking university-level classes and have a taste of what university is like. For more information about summer programs abroad, please see your college counselor in December/January.

For more information on online classes, please check the following links:

<https://www.edx.org/>

<https://www.coursera.org/>

HCAS might collaborate with schools abroad for summer programs and this kind of opportunity is reserved for Grades 10, 11, and 12 students who have shown impeccable excellence throughout the school year. For this opportunity, the college counselor will notify the chosen students in spring. HCAS has worked with Wheaton College in Massachusetts for their summer program in which ALL expenses were paid by the college. When asked about the experience, one student said, "despite that we are from different countries, the program itself



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Grade 10



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Grade 10 To-do list

By now, you should have selected courses that interest you and have some understanding of what you would like to study in the future. Your tasks will be outlined here, most of which will be the same as what you have done already in Grade 9:

1. Maintain or improve your grades.
2. Be attentive during college visits and ask questions.
3. Sign up for a College Board account.
4. Consider attending a college fair in Taipei or Hsinchu.
5. Seek extra help when needed.
6. Consult with a college counselor for academic advices.
7. Continue to use BridgeU to research to different schools.
8. Carefully plan for your course selection in spring.
9. Decide whether you need to take the online class or not.
10. Decide on your summer plan as early as winter.
11. Keep exploring your interests.



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If you are interested in going to the United States in the future, then you could consider taking the PSAT 10. PSAT 10 is a standardized test that is similar to the PSAT/SAT. Your PSAT 10 score does not, and will not, affect your future college application because unlike the SAT, PSAT 10 serves only as a benchmark to assess your current academic standing. Through PSAT 10, you will get a sense of standardized tests. You will need to have a College Board account in order to retrieve your score. You do not need to prepare for PSAT 10 as it tests you on materials that you should have learned from the past years.

Grade 11 will be a crucial year for you. Therefore, you should spend your summer wisely. In Grade 11, you will most likely be taking your first SAT and consider outside help if you are not satisfied with your PSAT 10. The two tests are very similar and can often reflect a student's score on the SAT. HCAS will offer SAT classes during summer which you should consider enrolling in.



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Grade 11



Grade 11 To-do list

You are just two years away from graduating! This year will be more important than ever before. You will most likely be taking your first SAT/ACT and TOEFL/IELTS exams and this time, they do count. Your primary focus should still be on your schoolwork as your effort on school should reflect the SAT scores accordingly. Let's update the to-do list:

1. Decide on the date to take the TOEFL/IELTS exam. Remember, the exam results are valid for two years, so please do not take the tests prior to Grade 11.
2. We strongly recommend you to take either the SAT or the ACT in spring or early summer to ensure you have enough time to prepare for SAT/ACT in Grade 12 if needed.
3. Think about which teacher you want to ask for your recommendation letters. You should ask a teacher who knows you well and has taught or worked with you before.
4. Narrow your college list to less than 15. Start to look at information such as tuition and other costs.
5. You will need to learn how to write a personal essay/statement. If you are applying to US colleges then HALE will be responsible. If you are applying to schools in other countries, please consult the college counselor for more details.
6. Note certain school's application date as some start as early as when you finish Grade 11. The deadline for early enrollment typically begins in early December of the senior year.



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7. Plan your course selection according to your needs. You will choose courses for Grade 12 and your courses should all meet your ideal colleges' requirements. Please pay special attention to AP classes as certain programs ask students to complete them. If you are applying to British Universities, you **must** check individual school's international admission page to make sure you have the necessary AP classes.



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TOEFL/IELTS

TOEFL and IELTS are a kind of English proficiency test that are accepted worldwide. Universities often require students to take either one of these two tests. For most schools, it is **MANDATORY** for you to submit an English proficiency test result in order for them to consider your admission. Certain schools will waive the English proficiency test because of WASC accreditation, however you should still take the best to keep your options open. The accepted scores fluctuates greatly between universities. Usually schools with higher rankings and renowned reputation would require students to have a TOEFL score that is higher than 100 and an IELTS score of 6.5-7.0. The tests are frequent and are readily available to students throughout the year. The results from these tests are valid for two year so it is most strategic for you to take it in grade 11 so you will not need to worry about the test when you are in grade 12.

SAT/ACT

By now, you should know what SAT and ACT are. However, if you still do not fully understand these two standardized exams, we will go over them for this section.

SAT

SAT test is one of the two major standardized exams for American colleges. SAT is an assessment and a testament to a student's academic ability and achievement. SAT has over 90 years of history and has long been an indicator for the American education system, which means it is accepted worldwide. Many schools outside of the United States likewise accept SAT results for their admission application. For example, schools in Canada all accept SAT in one form or another while some might not necessarily require SAT for admission, but they will accept the score. We will not force our students to take the SAT but we highly recommend they take the exam because you will have a lot more options for colleges.

There are two versions of the SAT exam; one is the regular SAT or SAT I and the second one is called the SAT Subject Test or SAT II. Even within the regular SAT, there are two versions



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of it, you can choose to either write an essay or not. The regular SAT is made up of two sections; Evidence-Based Reading and Writing and Mathematics. Evidence-Based Reading and Writing focuses mainly on reading comprehension and writing abilities with numerous passages that will require students to grasp key themes from them. The Mathematics part is composed of 2 sections; one does not require a calculator and one does. In order to register for the SAT, you must contact the College Board but you should already have that by this point. Registration for fall SAT begins in May and we suggest that you register as soon as the registration opens as spaces are limited and can be quite competitive for certain test centers. We suggest that you register for SAT in fall for the spring SAT exams and if the test result is not up to your expectations, you can register for additional SATs in May to take when you are in Grade 12.

The above paragraph highlights the general components of a SAT exam but what about the content of the exam? The questions from SAT will not be as difficult as those on ones an AP exam. Why? AP Exams are college-level while SAT is designed so the difficulty will not exceed high school level. You will be required to do literary analysis, as well as reading comprehension questions. Given the time restraint, you will not be asked to write an extensive amount of responses. For the math section, all of the questions can be completed without the use of a calculator but we highly recommend that you do use one as it would make calculations much simpler. In terms of the model, we recommend you use the standard graphing calculator suggested for pre-calculus class. Students who are not mathematically inclined should not be discouraged by the math section because the questions' level is not comparable to pre-calculus. Therefore, it should not be too overly difficult for those with basic competency in algebra and geometry. SAT exam questions still have a certain degree of difficulty but there are certainly tips out there for taking this exam. You should be able to get a sense of SAT's difficulty when you took the PSAT but do not get discouraged if your initial score fall under expectations.

SAT I

In this section, we will abbreviate SAT I to just SAT. SAT I or just the regular SAT is the exam that you will mostly take in Grades 11 and 12. We strongly suggest that you take the SAT I



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at least twice; once in Grade 11 and the second time in Grade 12. SAT is accepted worldwide and is generally considered the standard requirement for admission for schools. In other words, it means that if you do not take the SATs and you want to apply to schools outside of the United States, your choices would be very limited. For example, most universities in London require students that attended schools with AP curriculum to have either SAT I or SAT IIs. There are only 2 schools in London that do not require students to have SAT but those two schools happen to be two of the most difficult schools to be admitted to in the whole world (London School of Economics and University College, London). Based on this reason alone, we must emphasize the importance of you taking this exam. Some colleges will require you to take SAT with essays while some will not. For schools that have a low admission rate, they often ask students to take SAT with essay unless students can provide them with an AP English class or a SAT Subject Test in literature.

The duration of SAT exam is long; up to 4 hours if you decide to take one with an essay. There are several components to the SAT and in this paragraph, we will break them down clearly. You should arrive at your testing center early so there will not be any chance of you being late and resulting in your disqualification. Depending on which SAT that you have registered for, the testing center will group you with other test takers who have registered for the same type of exam. If you take SAT with essay, you will almost never be in the same room with test takers who are just taking SAT and vice versa. If you encounter any strange situations, it is your duty to report such to the testing center staff and College Board. The standard SAT will roughly take about 3 hours with 30 minutes in between sections. Let's look at the tests:

SAT	SAT with Essay
Reading Test 65 minutes	Reading Test 65 minutes
10 minute break	
Writing and Language Test 35 minutes	Writing and Language Test 35 minutes
Math Test-No Calculator 25 minutes	Math Test-No Calculator 25 minutes



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5 minute break	
Math Test-Calculator 55 minutes	Math Test-Calculator 55 minutes
You are done!	2 minute break
	Essay 50 minutes

Just by looking at the schedule, you will know that SAT is a very rigorous exam. You will need to pace yourself as you will not be able to return to sections that you have completed. For example, when doing the writing and language test, you cannot return to the previous reading test section as doing so will result in your disqualification. The testing center staff will also remind you of the time that remains several times. If you have trouble with a particular question, you should consider skipping it and return to it later but you should be careful **NOT** to fill in the **WRONG** circle. It's a long exam but if you had adequately prepared for this exam, you should be fine.

SAT II

SAT II or SAT Subject Test is also a standardized test administered by College Board. The key difference between the SAT I and SAT II is that SAT II focuses on one specific subject that might not be present in SAT I such as chemistry, history, physics, etc. SAT Subject Test is optional for most college admission, **HOWEVER**, they are **REQUIRED** for some schools. An example would be Boston University's Medical and Dental Program which requires applicants to have SAT Subject Test in chemistry and Math. Alternatively, some schools might consider SAT II over AP or SAT I, but you **MUST** do your research to ensure a smooth application. You can use



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the link below to check which colleges accept SAT IIs.

<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat-subject-tests/about/institutions-using>

Why would you take the optional subject tests? The subject tests can provide colleges a more in-depth look at your profile and it could also act as a backup if your SAT I score is not ideal. Let's say your first languages are English and Mandarin then you take the SAT French Test and receive a good score. Colleges might be impressed by the fact that you put enough effort into learning a non-native language. If you achieve a high score on your SAT IIs then you should send in the results to improve your chance of being admitted. Since we are situated in Taiwan where the predominant language is Mandarin, it might not be advantageous to take SAT Chinese Test because roughly 40% of test takers get perfect and it does not show. During the SAT II tests, you will have the opportunity to take up to three different tests. You will have one hour to complete each of them. Most students take two tests in one session but if you think you can handle three tests then you are more than welcome to do so!

Here are ways to help you improve your SAT score:

1. Be a more active participant in classes- If you do not understand an idea or a question, ask! You would be surprised that most of your questions could easily be answered by your teachers and teachers greatly appreciate students who ask questions.
2. Check our library- Our library has several books on taking the SAT. The books offer practice questions and answers, as well as test tips.
3. After school SAT classes- We have after school SAT/TOEFL class should you need extra help to improve your score.
4. Khan Academy- Khan Academy is a non-profit educational organization that provides sample questions to SAT and AP Exams. You can watch YouTube clips and learn some test tips. Please go to their website for more information.

<https://www.khanacademy.org/>

5. Order SAT Score Report- When registering for the SAT, you have the option to order a SAT Score Report. The SAT Score Report is a comprehensive analysis of your test result.



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It will show your strengths and weaknesses. You can link your College Board account with Khan Academy to generate practice questions best suited for you.

6. Seek outside help- There are various cram schools and tutors that specialize in SAT preparation. Please note that these cram schools and tutors often charge for a premium.
7. Summer plan- If you are still in Grade 11 then consider utilizing your summer for your last SAT preparation. HCAS will offer our own summer SAT program. You can also choose alternate outside help as well.

In the end, we wish you all the best when it comes to preparing for the SAT. If you have any concerns, please consult your college counselor. SAT is very important when it comes to college application but do not despair if you do not do a good job; there are numerous schools that do not look at SAT, or do not give it high priority, when it comes to admission. We would like to reemphasize that taking the SAT is for your own benefit as you would be limited to a handful of schools, especially when you are applying to Canadian or British universities.

International SAT dates will take place on the first Saturday of October, November, December, March, May, and June. Please register for the test early as seats are often limited.

ACT

The ACT test is another popular standardized test that is approved worldwide. ACT is not as well-known as SAT outside of the United States, however, ACT has seen a steady increase of test takers and has surpassed SAT in terms of test takers in 2011. Representatives from HALE note that for non-native English speakers, they tend to find ACT easier than SAT which is an

incentive for students who are worried about the SAT. Like SAT, the ACT is divided into several sections, 4 to be precise. Each section covers different ideas and concepts. The full score for the ACT is 36. Here are the 4 sections to the exam:

English	Math	Reading	Science Reasoning
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<p>45 Minutes</p> <p>The main idea is to correctly identify grammar and sentence structure.</p>	<p>60 Minutes</p> <p>You have to complete various questions ranging from pre-algebra to trigonometry.</p>	<p>35 Minutes</p> <p>There are 3 passages that you will need to analyze. These questions are considered to be first year college level questions.</p>	<p>35 Minutes</p> <p>The section is divided into 3 concepts: Data Representation, Research Summary, and Conflicting Viewpoints.</p>
-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Like SAT with Essay, ACT also has an optional writing part. Students can usually use ACT with writing in lieu for SAT with Essay but you **must** check each school's admission requirement in order to avoid any discrepancies. Additionally, whereas you must submit all SAT scores if taken on more the 1 occasion, you may take the ACT more than once and provide the highest score with the application.

Writing
<p>40 Minutes</p> <p>Students will be asked to write responses. The topic will be about broad social issues that students can relate to. The writing does not have to be in essay format.</p>

At this point, you might be wondering what the ACT's equivalent score to SAT is. You can use this chart below to check for a rough grade comparison for the two tests.



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SAT Combined Score (Math/Reading+Writing)	ACT Composite Score	SAT Combined Score (Math/Reading+Writing)	ACT Composite Score
1600	36	1100-1120	22
1560-1590	35	1060-1090	21
1490-1510	34	1020-1050	20
1450-1480	32	980-1010	19
1420-1440	31	940-970	18
1390-1410	30	900-930	17
1350-1380	29	860-890	16
1310-1340	28	810-850	15
1280-1300	27	760-800	14
1240-1270	26	720-750	13
1200-1230	25	630-710	12
1160-1190	24	560-600	11
1130-1150	23	N/A	

If you are interested in taking the ACT, you must do so immediately after registration begins. There are not that many testing centers in Taiwan and as of June, 2018 there is only one testing center in Hsinchu. The two other closest testing centers are in New Taipei City and Taichung.

We do not have a particular preference to which standardized test you might wish to take but you should know that there are more SAT takers in Taiwan. Therefore, there are more resources available for SAT compared to ACT. In the end, these two exams are based on what you have learned throughout high school and with proper preparation, you will succeed.



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Section Three

Grade 12



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College Application

Congratulations! You are now in Grade 12. You will be applying to your dream schools in just a few months but don't forget these important things:

1. By now, you should have all the courses scheduled. However, if you are not happy with your Grade 12 courses, please consult the college counselor to make any last minute changes.
2. Do you have your recommendation letter(s) ready? Please note that the number of recommendation letters might be different between schools from different countries.
3. Your volunteering/community service hours. Please ask for a certificate and, if possible, translate into English.
4. Are you happy with your ACT/SAT results? If not, and you want to retake the test again, please check the College Board site ASAP for available spots at HCAS or other test centers in Taiwan.
5. When you apply for schools, make sure you have your latest transcript.
6. When you are looking at college application, you might have seen terminologies like early decision (ED), early action (EA), and regular decision (RD). If you do not know what they mean, please check the passage below.

Types of Application

American Schools

College application is not as simple as just submitting your transcript and associated documents, it also involves strategic planning. For some students, ED and EA will greatly effect



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how they apply to schools. There are advantages and disadvantages to ED and EA and you must use your best judgment to decide on how you will apply.

Early Decision	Early Action	Regular Decision
<p>Advantages:</p> <p>You can apply early.</p> <p>You will receive an offer sooner than other schools.</p> <p>You can focus on schoolwork after getting a confirmation from the college.</p> <p>For some schools by applying using Early Decision, your chance of being admitted might be slightly higher.</p> <p>Disadvantages:</p> <p>If you receive an offer from Early Decision then it is a binding one, meaning you have to attend that school and withdraw all other schools' application.</p> <p>The duration of application is only until January.</p>	<p>Advantages:</p> <p>You can apply early.</p> <p>You will receive an offer sooner than other schools.</p> <p>The offers are not binding.</p> <p>You can focus on schoolwork after getting a confirmation from the college.</p> <p>Disadvantages:</p> <p>The duration of application is only until January.</p>	<p>Advantages:</p> <p>The duration of application is longer than ED and EA.</p> <p>If your transcript is not to your liking then you can wait until the first report card comes out then submit it (assuming the grades are better).</p> <p>Disadvantages:</p> <p>You will not know about the offer until spring.</p>



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As you can see from the chart above, there are clear advantages for ED and EA. The main advantage for ED and EA is that you will know whether or not that you have been admitted in advance compared to students who choose to do RD and most students would find it less stressful having to know there will be a school for them. One factor that sets ED apart from EA is that ED acceptance is binding meaning that once you submitted ED for that school and are admitted, you MUST attend that school and withdraw all other applications. The advantage for ED is that for some schools ED has a slightly higher admitted rate BUT the main disadvantage is that you will not get a chance to compare offers from other schools. For RD, the clear advantage is that the application window is longer but that is also its disadvantage as students will have to wait longer to receive a reply from colleges. If you need any help with your application, you can consult Hale's representative or the college counselor.

International Applicant? U.S. Applicant?

When you are applying to universities, your citizenship matters. Students who do not hold an American passport are international applicants. If you are an American citizen then you will need to apply as an American citizen. However, some schools like Cornell will treat US citizens who has spent significant time outside of the United States as an international applicant. When applying to each school, you must carefully read the information on the types of applicants to ensure for smooth application.

Deferral? Waitlist?

You applied using ED or EA but you got a reply saying that you have been deferred. What does that mean? It does not mean you have been rejected but rather the school wants more information from you such as your final grades and/or AP/SAT/ACT results so your application will be altered to regular decision. Once you have been deferred, you do not need to apply again as their system has automatically changed your status to regular decision and you will be receiving a reply in spring time. If the school says that you have been waitlisted, it



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means that they have made offers to other students but have not outright rejected you yet. You still have a chance to be admitted into the school as long as enough students who received an offer choose

not to attend there. If you have received either deferral or waitlist as a reply, you do not need to panic but you should also consider looking at other options.

Interviews

For some schools, you might have to go through an extra interview phase. Some schools include interview as part of the admission process. The interview could be informational or part of admission evaluation. For all the Ivy League schools (except for Cornell), evaluation is part of the evaluative process and is either mandatory or recommended by the seven schools. For most schools, they will have an alum to interview you but in the rare case of not being able to find an alum, most schools would conduct online interviews.

Applying to Canadian Universities

If you want to apply to Canadian Universities, the application process is not as tedious as the American counterpart. For most Canadian schools, you have to apply separately and meet their deadline. Some Canadian schools operate in trimesters which means you can choose your entry date; it does not have to be in the following fall, rather it could be in spring. If you want to attend a school in Ontario, you will need to use OUAC, Ontario Universities Application Centre. OUAC works similar to America's Common App and UK's UCAS. You may apply up to 3 universities and specific program, however, you can still apply to more for additional fees. You will generally receive a reply from the school in a few weeks, and once the offer has been made, you must maintain the grades to which you have submitted. For University of Toronto, you may apply to the 3 different campuses. For universities such as the University of British Columbia and University of Toronto, you can try to apply to their satellite campus if you think your grades are not sufficient enough as the satellite campuses have a lower grade requirement.



Applying to British Universities

In the UK, there is a system that is similar to Common App called UCAS. UCAS differs from the Common App largely by the number of schools and courses you can apply to. In the UK, you apply to the courses that you want instead of programs like in America or Canada. Within UCAS, you can only apply for as many as 5 different courses. You can apply for 5 different schools or 1 school with 5 different courses so you will need to narrow your list. You will also have to upload a personal statement onto UCAS which will be used for the admission for the 5 courses that you have listed. The personal statement is extremely important as you need to demonstrate your writing ability. When you are writing your personal statement, you will most likely find out there is a certain degree of difficulty because you cannot solely focus on one specific school/course. If you are having trouble, perhaps you should consider narrowing the courses. For example, writing a personal statement for courses like finance and linguistics might be difficult because they are so different from each other. You should perhaps change linguistics to economics which has more in common with finance. If you would like to apply to a wide range of courses, you are still welcome to do so but you must do it methodically. Certain British universities might require you to take an admission assessment related to the courses that you have applied for and they might conduct an interview with you.

Personal Statement

When you apply to American and British schools, you must submit a personal statement which is an essay that tells admission officers about you and this essay will set you apart from other applicants. Every year there are hundreds and thousands of students applying to colleges and more often than not, they will be applying to the same schools and they most likely will have similar academic records or extracurricular activities, so you must stand out from all other applicants by writing a statement that hopefully can get the admission officers' attention. Here are 8 tips from College Board for how to write a good personal statement.



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1. Get started by brainstorming- Starting the essay can be the hardest part. Brainstorming about your personality traits and defining your strengths is a good place to begin.
2. Let your first draft flow- After you've gathered your notes, create an outline to organize your essay and decide where you want examples to appear. Now you're ready to write your first draft. Don't worry about making it perfect. Just get your ideas flowing and your thoughts down on paper. You'll fix mistakes and improve the writing in later drafts.
3. Develop three essay parts
 - Introduction: One paragraph that introduces your essay.
 - Body: Several paragraphs explaining the main idea with examples.
 - Conclusion: One paragraph that summarizes and ends the essay.
4. Be specific- Give your essay focus by figuring out how the question relates to your personal qualities and then taking a specific angle. Make sure everything you write supports that viewpoint.
5. Find a creative angle- Katherine, a college freshman, had to describe why she would make a good Reed College student for that school's essay. "I am a huge fan of Beat Generation writers, and many of the West Coast Beat writers attended Reed," she says. "So I related my love for writing and the Beats to why I would be a great fit for the school."
6. Be honest- The essay question might ask you about your best quality, an experience that shaped you or the reason you want to attend a certain college. Don't be tempted to write what you think the admission officers want to hear; answer the question honestly.
7. Get feedback- Show your draft to family, friends or teachers. Ask if it makes sense and sounds like you. Consider their feedback and make changes, but keep your voice. High school senior Dana warns, "Make sure the essay is in your own voice. If at some point you read over your essay and you hear your mother's voice, something is wrong."
8. Proofread and make corrections- Read your essay over carefully to check for typos and spelling and grammar errors. It's best to ask someone who hasn't seen it yet to take a look as well. They're likely to see mistakes you won't catch.⁴

⁴ College Board, "8 Tips for Crafting Your Best College Essay," <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/essays/8-tips-for-crafting-your-best-college-essay>, 2018



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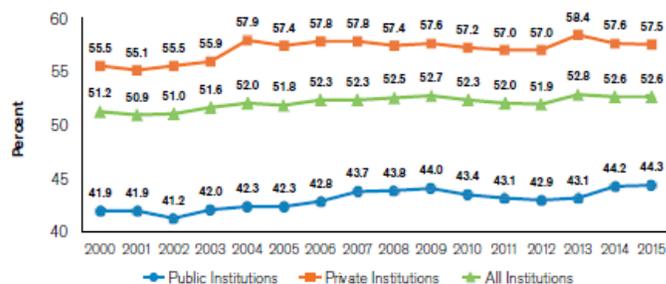
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Best Fit Schools

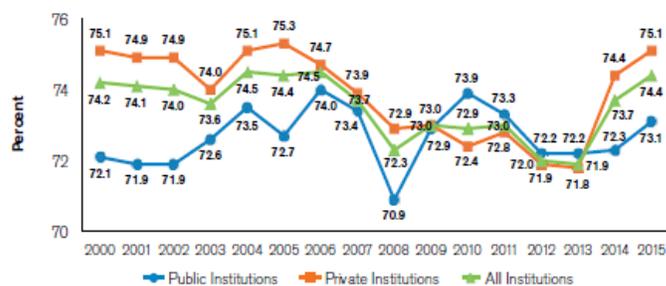
Don't forget that you are applying to schools that you think are the best fit for you. HCAS wants you to succeed in college and beyond which is why we are urging you to carefully consider what kind of schools you apply to. You should not apply to schools that does match your academic performances meaning if you had an average grade, you should not apply to academically-driven colleges. Even if you were to be admitted to school that is considered to be reach, you must think whether or not if you could successfully obtain a degree from the school as many students fail to move onto their sophomore year. Consider this chart as a reference for how important it is to choose the best fit school.



Percentage of Four-Year College Students Who Earn a Degree Within Five Years of Entry



Percentage of First-Year Students at Four-Year Colleges Who Return for Second Year



Source: Compiled from ACT Institutional Data Files

After Application-Now What?

Your college application might have ended but you cannot relax just yet. You will need to maintain your grades in order not to let schools rescind their offer. Assuming you are taking AP classes, you still need to finish the exams in order for you to receive college credits. Remember, HCAS can also add any remarks on the documents sent to schools regardless if they

⁵ ACT, "2015 Retention/Completion Summary Tables," <https://www.act.org/content/dam/act/unsecured/documents/2015-Summary-Tables.pdf>, 2015



are good or bad, which means you should be on your best behavior. One last thing, please don't contract the deadly disease known as the Senioritis.

Senioritis (n.)

A crippling disease that strikes high school seniors.

Symptoms:

laziness, an over-excessive wearing of track pants, and sweatshirts.

Lack of studying, repeated absences, and a dismissive attitude.

The only known cure is a phenomenon known as Graduation.

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⁶ Dave Stopera, "28 Signs That You Totally Have Senioritis," https://www.buzzfeed.com/daves4/signs-that-you-might-have-senioritis?utm_term=.as3bmVdK#.vpYkGOJA, February 23rd, 2018

