# College Guidebook

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Dear Parents & Students,

Over the next year you, the student, will research where you want to spend your college years. This is a daunting task and can seem overwhelming at first. This manual is a collection of resources that we hope will help you break down the process into manageable steps. In order to be environmentally friendly, we have posted this guide electronically. Please print pages that you find useful.

Choosing the right post-secondary program is not a simple assignment. It takes time, focus and energy. The number of institutions available and the variety of programs offered complicate the process. Our hope is that we can work together so that you manage the tasks at hand, are aware of the process and ultimately are happy with the decisions that you have made and where your future education will take place.

If you have any questions about the process please remember we are as close as the inbox.

Sincerely,

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College Guidebook

2. PARTS OF AN APPLICATION

College applications can range from three or four pages to cover fourteen pages. Each college determines what information they want, but most applications contain several things in common.

SCHOOL DOCUMENTS

Your transcript shows the courses you have taken, the credit value awarded for each course and the grades you received at the end of each semester. It is the single most important piece of information the college admission officer wants to see and tends to correlate most strongly with college performance.

The American School of Doha Profile (included with every transcript) is a key document that tells the admissions officer what courses are available, how the school grades, the proportion of students who attend college, where ASD's students matriculate to university, standardized test information, course information and AP and IB exam results. The profile is an essential piece of information for the admissions committee because it is the source of their knowledge of ASD and of how you have done in relation to other students at the school.

Increasing numbers of independent schools and many competitive public schools no longer provide colleges with rank-in-class. All colleges are accustomed to receiving transcripts from schools that do not rank. The American School of Doha does not rank due to the selective and transient nature of our student body.

STANDARDIZED TESTS

Like it or not, most colleges and universities still require standardized test scores. They are useful because they do provide a standardized common denominator to help admissions officers measure you against all the other applicants.

In all cases, YOU are responsible for arranging to take the test as well as have the “official” test scores sent to the colleges to which you are applying. For SAT go to www.collegeboard.com and for ACT go to www.act.org. You will find the college’s code number on these websites or in the registration information for the exam.

TOEFL: Test of English Proficiency: www.ets.org. Always check the college for requirements regarding English proficiency. Even though you have gone to an American School, you may still need to take the TOEFL.
**THE APPLICATION**

At larger universities, and many state or public universities, the application is purely factual, asking only for biographical information, addresses, and other data. State-supported universities also ask for certification of address and other residency information. Complete this information only if you are applying for in-state resident fees. A college with a more personalized admissions process is more likely to have a longer application, request a more detailed list of activities and involvements and one or more essays.

**THE COMMON APPLICATION**

Over 400 colleges and universities in the United States are members of The Common Application group. The Common Application is a single application accepted by all of the members who agree to treat the Common Application as their own in the admissions process. For an increasing number of colleges, the Common Application with a supplement is their application. The Common App is a great time-saver. You complete it once and send copies to all colleges that accept it.

You must check the college’s application information to be sure whether or not a college-specific supplement is needed. All of this information is available at the Common Application website: [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).

**YOUR TRANSCRIPT & SECONDARY SCHOOL REPORT**

Your transcript is the key document you present to the college. It is sent directly from the school to the colleges. The Secondary School Report form provides other information that the college wants and accompanies the transcript. Whenever a transcript is released to a college, a ASD school profile goes with it so the recipient knows how to interpret the information on the transcript.

**COUNSELOR’S RECOMMENDATION**

Many colleges ask for a Counselor’s Recommendation. Your college counselor writes this and it is important for them to be able to talk knowledgeably about you. Much of the information about you comes from not only discussion with your teachers, coaches and advisors but also from the More About Me survey on Naviance. Make sure and spend time thoughtfully filling this out.

**TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS**

Some colleges ask for teacher recommendations, some do not. Some ask for one, some ask for two. Some ask for recommendations from particular teachers (English and math are the most common), and some let you choose. What they are interested in is information about you in school, such as do you show interest in the subject or just in the grades? Do you accept criticism and work on improving? Are you consistent? Are you inquisitive or just argumentative? Are you active in class or do you do just
enough to get by? The counselors will be happy to help you make the decision about which teachers you want to ask to write recommendations.

Some students feel the need to include teacher recommendations even if the college does not ask for them. Our suggestion is if you want to do that, go ahead, but understand that the college may or may not read it.

**Do I have to waive my right to see the recommendation?**
Yes. The simple fact is that most admissions committees look for that waiver because it not only tells the college that you trust your recommenders but it also gives them the sense that they are getting the real story from your recommender.

**How you should request a recommendation?**
Contact the teacher and ask if he or she is willing to write a recommendation. Fill in the form requesting the recommendation from the teacher. Do not assume the answer will be yes. Many teachers simply receive too many requests to respond to them all positively. Sometimes teachers do not think they can be honest and helpful to you at the same time. Always remember that the teacher is doing a service for you – you do not have the right to demand that any teacher write a recommendation.

When you ask a teacher for a recommendation requested by the college, be sure to:
- Let them know if you are applying Common App.
- If not Common App, give the teacher any forms the particular college may want the teacher to complete. Even if the teacher writes a letter, that form, properly signed by the teacher, should accompany the letter.
- Thank the teacher for writing your recommendation.
- Ensure the teacher has access to upload the documents into Naviance.
- Let the teacher know the deadlines to submit the letter.

**OTHER FORMS OF SELF PROMOTION**

Students should feel free to include a more complete resume as an attachment. But be sure to complete the application sections which request information about activities, interests, sports as well. Remember to put your name and address on the top of each page that you submit.

Extra recommendations may be useful if there is someone in the community or an employer who knows you very well and can provide information that is not available in another part of your application. Even if the recommendation is from an important person or an alumnus of the school, if the recommendation does not talk about you as an individual and about something particular you have done, it does not need to be a part of your application.

Most students will not need any “extra” pieces of information. Sending too much can be as big a problem as sending too little – always check with your college counselor before making that decision.
GUIDELINES FOR DETERMINING RIGOR OF SCHEDULE

Some colleges ask the counselor to indicate a student’s “level of rigor” in their transcript. The admissions counselors want to see if the student chose courses that were challenging. When completing the Secondary School Report the counselors use the information below as a guide.

MOST RIGOROUS: 5 Advanced Placement, +One or more solid academic course(s), IB Program, Full AP/IB Program.

VERY RIGOROUS: 3-4 Advanced Placement, +One or more solid academic course(s) including Honors courses, Part AP and IB classes.

RIGOROUS: 2 Advanced Placement, Solid academic courses including Honors courses or IB classes.

AVERAGE: 0-1 Advanced Placement.

BELOW AVERAGE: No Advance Placement or Honors classes.

PERSONAL ESSAYS

Many colleges request essays, others do not. Some even ask two or three short answer questions in addition to essays.

When you know that you will be applying to a particular college, you should begin thinking about writing an essay. You can call a college in late summer and ask what the essay topics will be. If a college is a member of the Common Application group, you can review the topics found there. Most of the applications essays fall into certain categories.

TYPICAL COLLEGE ESSAY TOPICS

1. The Personal Statement
   a. Tell us about yourself.
   b. What else do we need to know about you?
   c. What did we not ask that we should have asked?
   d. Why do you want to go to this college?
   e. Describe your 25th high school class reunion.
   f. Reflect on a picture or object of significance to you.

2. Significant experience, achievement, decision, activity
   a. Leadership experience.
   b. Leadership opportunity.

3. Influential person or event
   a. Interview a person in history.
   b. Great book/movie/painting/other art form.
4. Reflect on a quotation – this question is really about whether you have thought about an issue deeply and have reached a conclusion.

5. Important Issues (subcategory Diversity)
   a. Social movement.
   b. Ethical issue.
   c. Political issue/movement

6. Predict the future

If you look at these questions you will see that they are all about you. The essay is your opportunity to let the admissions committee get to know you, to give or amplify information requested in other parts of the application, to give some insight into the depth and complexity of your thinking and to demonstrate your writing style. It should go without saying that your essays represent you and that they should represent your very best work.

Some colleges ask to see a graded piece of academic work – usually a history or English essay with your teacher’s comments and the grade on it. A photocopy is acceptable, but not if it looks as if you tried to change or correct something on it.

PERSONAL ESSAYS

WHAT ADMISSIONS PEOPLE SAY ABOUT ESSAYS

- Clear and concise is the best way to go.
- Take creative risk but be sure it’s correctly written.
- Don’t talk about why your SAT scores do not reflect your ability and don’t “whine”.
- Don’t be cute or melodramatic.
- We like it up close and personal.
- Looking for signs of life—a sense of humor, intellectual curiosity, interesting experiences.
- The essay is often the student’s only connection with the admissions counselor, so present yourself fully.
- If you are a borderline case, explain why the future will be better.

REMEMBER...

The university has to get to know you from the application you submit. Personal interviews may not be possible because of the distance and the lack of representatives. An accurately completed application will communicate to an admissions office that your interest is genuine. The application itself must be your own work, but you are encouraged to solicit constructive criticism of your grammar and written expression before you submit your application.

ESSAY REPEATS

Do not be lazy! If you have an essay for one university and you want to use it for another, make sure it answers the question. Not “ALMOST” answers
the question. They have chosen the questions they ask for a reason and want answers to those questions FOR A REASON.

**EXTRA ESSAYS**
Often universities will allow you to add an extra essay or explanation for special circumstances. If they do, be brief, and only do this if you feel this issue is not addressed elsewhere and needs to be commented on.

**ESSAY LENGTH**
For colleges that state a maximum number of words for an essay, the best advice for applicants is to stay close to that maximum. The main reasons for setting a limit are:
- College admission counselors have limited time to get thru all the essays so they restrict the number of words to save time.
- Colleges are interested if you can be concise.
- Colleges want to see if you can follow directions.
- If they do not give a word limit, use a 500-600 word limit.

**UK APPLICANTS & PERSONAL STATEMENT**
The UCAS application has specific suggestions for the personal statement. Make sure you read these directions carefully. The UK universities are looking for information about you as a student, as a person and your interest in that particular career of study. This is not appropriate for creative writing topics.

The style of the UCAS personal statement is not the same as the US application essays and is for a different purpose. One of the most difficult factors is the very strict word limit.

**THE COLLEGE INTERVIEW**
Many universities require or recommend an interview of all or some of their applicants. Whether required or not, an interview is a great opportunity to make a case for yourself and your particular strengths. There are three types of interviews:

1. **Informational Interview**
   These interviews are often during the summer and are in connection with the tours and general information sessions. This is a fact finding time to see how well the student and university fit together before making the application.

2. **On Campus Interview**
   These interviews are often during the Fall Semester, September thru December months. Sometimes these are available in the summer but only by appointment. Plan ahead and be prepared as these are more formal with the admissions professional trying to
gain insight about how the student will fit into the campus and the student is trying to “sell” themselves to the college.

Occasionally representatives that ravel to Doha do provide interviews here. If this is the case, the university representative will notify the counselor to help arrange the times.

3. **Alumni Interview**
   These are conducted by Alumni of a particular college, that may be in the region, and who conduct an interview on behalf of the college. Again, this is a more formal interview and you should come prepared.

**PREPARING FOR INTERVIEWS**

1. Plan ahead and make appointments well in advance by phone or email.

2. Remember during summers universities may not offer interviews for visiting students. But, if you contact them in advance and explain you are in an international location, some schools will accommodate you.

3. If you talk with an interviewer be sure to get the name of the person. Some universities will ask you who you have been in contact with during the initial stages of the application.

4. Don’t ask obvious questions…browse the website and review materials so you already know how big the school is, what majors are offered, if they have a soccer team..etc.

5. Bring a copy of your latest transcript, test scores and resume. Use them with discretion and only when asked for. The counseling office can provide you with an unofficial transcript.

6. Construct a resume of your activities, interests, and hobbies. Be prepared to answer questions concerning these and to correlate them with the university you are visiting.

7. Go over some of the frequently asked questions below with your counselor, a friend or parent:

   - Tell me about yourself.
   - What made you interested in our university?
   - How do you spend your leisure time?
   - What teacher impressed you the most in high school?
   - What decisions have you most regretted and why?
What problems do you see as the most critical for the US (or the Middle East) in the next five years?

8. Be Prompt! Allow sufficient time to arrive and locate the office before the appointment time. Call if you are delayed.

ONLINE APPLICATIONS

The Do’s, Don’ts, and Hints for applying to college online:

1. **Do create a user name and password that you will remember.**
   Record it and keep it in a safe place. If you lose your password, you can usually create a new one but if you forget your user name, you’ll have to start a new application.

2. **Do disable pop-up blockers.**
   This will allow you to view the certain parts of the application.

3. **Do follow directions and complete all steps.**
   Finish on each page and in every pop-up scrolling to the bottom to avoid missing any information.

4. **Don’t forget to save your work.**
   You usually have no more than 40 minutes per web page before you will be timed out. Whenever you save an entry or move to a new page, your work is automatically stored. But if you plan to leave your application for any length of time – to grab a snack or answer the phone – use the save/logout feature to store your application, then log back in.

5. **Don’t compose your personal statement online.**
   Take time to compose it in a word-processing application, save it as a text file, then copy and paste it into the appropriate boxes in the online application.

6. **Do print out copies of your personal statement.**
   Cross-check your work with your counselor or a teacher.

7. **Do carefully review the summary page.**
   Look for any instance where it says, “no information added,” and if you didn’t intend to leave that area blank, click “modify” to return to the step where you can fill it in.

8. **Do click “Submit Application” when you have finished.**
   Your application will not be sent to the University until you do.

9. **Do print out your receipt and keep it.**
   You will have a record of your application ID number and a complete summary of your application.
**HINTS FOR APPLYING TO COLLEGE ONLINE**

- Set up an email account to be used for college correspondence only.

- Consider using the Common Application ([www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)) which is accepted by 250+ private, and some public, colleges and universities across the United States.

- Print out the full application directions so you can check off tasks as you complete them.

- Print out your completed application or summary and proof-read before clicking the “submit” button. Make sure your personal statements and essays are written in proper form. This is not an email or text message. Proper capitalization, punctuation, paragraph structure and basic grammatical elements should prevail.

- Make sure none of your information was cut-off. Save the copy for your college files.

- Submit your application at least a week or more before the deadline. Application websites slow down to a crawl the closer you get to the deadlines and sometimes crash.

- Make sure you have completed all supplements, if required.

- Credit card payments can take weeks to reach the school. Make sure you record the date you made the payment and the card used in case you need to track it.

- Look for email confirmation that your application has been received. Print out and file the application acknowledgement. Call the college’s Office of Admission if you do not receive confirmation within forty-eight hours after submission.

- Finally, make sure you have arranged for all supporting documents to be sent by the application deadline. These can include:
  - SAT and/or ACT official score reports from Collegeboard or ACT
  - Official transcripts
  - Teacher recommendations
  - School or Counselor recommendations, generally called Secondary School Report
  - Common Application supplements, if required
3. UNIVERSITY APPLICATION PROCEDURES
BY COUNTRY

UNIVERSITY APPLICATION PROCEDURES IN THE UNITED STATES

1. Meet with the counselor AND your parents
   - Start researching universities (books, internet, etc.)
   - Compile a list of 20-30 schools which will be narrowed down to 8-10 final choices as your research is refined.
   - List important criteria (using a log-book, data sheet, notebook)

2. Research universities (application procedures and information)
   - Do this semester 2 or over the June-July vacation.
   - Visit schools; campus tours, interviews, info sessions.
   - Get as much information as you can before August.

3. Start a system to keep track of your application process
   - Files and checklists.

4. Watch approaching DEADLINES
   - The most accurate information about deadlines will be on the university's website.
   - Helpful tip: Take a calendar and mark ALL your activities on it for the school year. I.E: school trips, school holidays, sports activities, anything that takes up your time. THEN add all your deadlines for applications, SAT/ACT/TOEFL registrations and test dates, scholarship deadlines, etc. This way you will see exactly how much time you have to meet your deadlines.

5. Visiting University Reps
   - If university reps are visiting Doha, talk with them even if it is not your main school choice, or even if you don't know the school. They have valuable information to share.

6. Letters of Recommendation
   - Research the universities that require teacher recommendations.
   - Ask a teacher NOW if they are leaving Doha.
   - Ask a teacher in September to give them plenty of time to craft a good letter for you.
Make sure you give them ALL forms that may be required to accompany the letter if going hard copy.

7. Help the counselor help you
   - Meet with them regularly.
   - Keep your list up to date in Naviance.
   - Make sure your counselor knows your early applications.
   - Make sure you fill out your request for Transcripts/ Applications/ Recommendations FORM either online or hard copy as needed and well before the deadline.

8. Think Ahead
   - Both ASD deadlines and college deadlines are given for a reason. Teachers, Counselors and Office Staff need time to prepare letters, forms and documents to send for you.
   - Keep this quote in mind: “Lack of planning on your part does NOT constitute an emergency on my part.”

9. Get testing done EARLY
   - As much as possible in your Junior year or early on in your senior year.

10. Mail and checking if documents have arrived
    - Remember to allow time for mailing.
    - Remember to check your application status once mail has gone out to make sure it has arrived and been recorded as received.

**WHAT ARE THE IMPORTANT FACTORS FOR APPLICATIONS/ADMISSIONS TO U.S. COLLEGES & UNIVERSITIES?**

The most important variables in admissions offices are:

1. Strength of the High School curriculum (or rigor of the student's class load)
2. Student's GRADES

Some universities still ask for a “rank in class” but since almost 50% of the applications are now coming from schools with out this, it is not as critical. We provide additional documentation in the form of “grade distribution charts” to help the colleges understand what our grades mean.

The next tier of factors in the application process is test scores and recommendations. The test scores are used to support the applications, not (as most students think) as a cut off to eliminate the applications. In each case they used the highest scores the student presents. In other words, using test scores from various testing dates and in many cases combining the actual tests (ACT & SAT) to provide the best possible test results for the students.
The recommendations enhance the application especially if the “recommender” really shows that they know the student well in the academic setting and can give specifics into how the student is ready to succeed in a university setting. We are lucky at ASD to have many teachers that take the time to labor over their letters to provide this important information for the student’s application.

Then they continue to add to the application with the strength of the extra curricular participation. It is not necessarily HOW MUCH they participate in but more important is the QUALITY of involvement.

And...of course the WRITING SAMPLE. This gives VOICE and CHARACTER to the application. It makes the student come alive to the admission officer that is buried in a pile of papers. They look at both the form and the content of the essays.

Overall, the application has many important parts and they are all important. But ~ THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTORS are the strength of the program and how well the student has performed. Did students take the most challenging program they could that was appropriate for their interests and their abilities? Did they take advantage of AP & IB programs if and when offered? Did they take the easy way out just to make A’s when a more advanced and challenging course was available?

SPECIAL NOTE:

In the United States the terms “college and university” are used almost synonymously. They are both institutions that grant the initial 4-year bachelor's degree (the normal first degree in the United States). The main difference between universities and colleges usually lies in their overall mission and whether they grant advanced degrees (masters and doctoral programs). For the application process, applications to colleges and universities are the same. Within a university, a student will apply to an “undergraduate college” within the overall university structure.

GENERAL TIPS:

1. E-Mail addresses-
   - Set up an account for your college applications (or clear an existing account for university correspondence). Be very careful in choosing your name – university admissions personnel may not see the humor in a nickname your friends use as your contact information or your nickname from middle school.

2. Names-
   - Make sure you use the same name for tests, applications and all correspondence. Using Susan Ann Student one time and Suzy Student another and Sue A. Student next will result in split files with each asking for additional materials. If there is ANY chance you will have other names on your documents talk to your counselor early in the process. Students should always use their “legal” name as shown on their passport.
UNIVERSITY COSTS

The cost of education in the U.S. varies from $0 to over $50,000 per year. Usually when the universities list the costs for a year they include not only the tuition, but also the accommodations, food, books and sometimes even an estimation of incidental expenses.

Example of variables that can affect the costs:

- location
- climate
- federal funding
- research facilities
- faculty/student ratio
- city size
- size of endowment
- state funding (public schools)
- facilities in general
- etc.

One very important factor to remember, the cost does not indicate whether a university is good or bad. In other words, attending a state university that has total yearly costs (for an out-of-state student) of $10,000 can provide as good an education as a university with a $35,000 price tag. The important factor is to match the student with the university where he/she will get the best education in their field of interest.

COSTS

When researching specific costs most listings will provide:

- The **Public “in-state”** costs include tuition as a state resident, transportation, books and in most cases some additional expenses for food or personal expenses. It does not include dorms.

- The **Public “out-of-state”** costs include tuition as a non-resident, books, room (on campus) and food (estimates) and personal expenses.

RESIDENCY

- **If you have a question about whether you are a still classified as a state resident for tuition purposes, please come by the counseling office as we have a reference book with the details of this or go to** [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) **and look in the “parents” section.**

- **DO NOT CONFUSE U.S. Residency (green card) with STATE residency** for tuition purposes. State residency usually depends on factors such as paying state income tax, property ownership, voter’s registration, state issued drivers license, banking and other activities that establish ties with a specific state. If you have questions come and ask your counselor as soon as possible. Each states requirements vary so it is best to work through this individually.

- You can obtain updated residency requirements at: [http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/international/state](http://professionals.collegeboard.com/testing/international/state).
Remember being a state resident determines the tuition payment ONLY at the public colleges and universities NOT private institutions.

**FINANCIAL AID**

This is always a difficult subject. If financial aid is a **MUST** then enter into the entire process with that as the **MAIN** qualifier for prospective universities. Financial aid is available, even for international students, but it must be pursued.

**NOTE: For parents of U.S. Citizens if the parents are not U.S. Citizens**

There are several special steps that parents must go through to establish either financial need or proof of the ability to pay for their child’s education. One of the most difficult parts is providing acceptable documentation to the college offices. This can vary widely in what they are requesting. They will first ask for U.S. tax documentation and forms. If you do not have them do not panic, just provide what ever tax forms you do have for whatever country that you file taxes. If this is not available you must work directly with the financial aid office to determine what they will accept as proof of income.

**YOU MUST LOOK FOR THE MONEY**

**THE MONEY WILL NOT LOOK FOR YOU!**

**KINDS OF COLLEGES (U.S.)**

1. **COLLEGE:**
   An institution that offers educational instruction beyond high school level in a two-year or four-year program. In the United States the terms college and university are fairly interchangeable.

2. **UNIVERSITY:**
   An academic organization which grants undergraduate and graduate degrees in a variety of fields and which supports at least two degree-granting professional schools that are not exclusively technological (such as medicine, journalism, or agriculture). It is composed of a number of "schools" or "colleges" each of which encompasses a general field of study.

3. **LIBERAL ARTS COLLEGE:**
   Four-year institution which emphasizes program of broad undergraduate education. Professional or pre-professional training may be available but is not stressed.

4. **JUNIOR COLLEGE:**
   Two-year institutions of higher learning which provide vocational training and academic curricular (terminal and transfer).
- **Terminal course:** Academic program is complete in itself. A student who completes it may not apply to a four-year college for further study without completing additional course requirements.

- **Transfer course:** Academic program is designed to lead into a four-year course at another college or university.

5. **ENGINEERING OR TECHNICAL COLLEGE:**
   Independent professional schools which provide four-year training programs in the fields of engineering and the physical sciences. They are often known as Institutes of Technology or Polytechnic Institutes.

6. **TECHNICAL SCHOOL:**
   A two-year institution which offers terminal occupational programs intended to prepare students for immediate employment in fields related to engineering and the physical sciences. These schools may also offer one-year certificate programs in certain crafts and clerical skills.

7. **NURSING SCHOOL:**
   There are two kinds of nursing schools. At schools affiliated with hospitals or community colleges, students receive R.N. degree upon completion of their training. At schools affiliated with or offered by four-year colleges, students receive both a B.S. degree and a R.N. and have possibilities of entering the field of nursing administration.

8. **BUSINESS SCHOOL:**
   Business schools fall into two categories. At some colleges it is possible to specialize in business administration or in a two-year secretarial course in conjunction with supplementary liberal arts courses. Other institutions offer predominantly the business or secretarial courses and may or may not be regionally accredited.

9. **MILITARY SCHOOL:**
   Federal military academics prepare officers for the Army, Navy and Air Force. These institutions (West Point, Annapolis and Air Force Academy) require recommendation and appointment by members of Congress. Private and state-supported military institutes, however, operate on a university application basis. They all offer degree programs in engineering and technology with concentrations in various aspects of military science.
1. **APPLICATIONS**
   - 2 types – central application center & individual university applications - Almost 100% on line.
   - OUAC - Ontario University Application Center (Ontario Universities common application)
   - All other universities apply direct through their websites.

2. **ASD CREDENTIALS**
   - Interpret ASD credentials as a US high school.
   - Always check for the information pertaining to American High School graduates, no matter what your citizenship is.

3. **TESTING**
   - Students need to take the SAT Reasoning Test & SAT Subject Test
   - AP certificates are valuable.
   - IB certificates are valuable.
   - IB diplomas are very good.

4. **GENERAL NOTES**
   - Plan testing schedule carefully.
   - Each school has specific requirements.
   - English language requirements are clearly stated – testing & schooling are factors.

5. **APPLY EARLY**
   - Allows time for follow up correspondence.
   - Could receive acceptance early.

6. **APPLICATIONS ON-LINE**
   - Canadian applications have been 100% electronic.
   - Universities usually respond quickly, acknowledging receipt of application
   - Students receive log-on and passwords for the website (KEEP UP WITH THESE).
   - Usually on the website students can monitor progress of application.
   - Remember to give your application number to Mrs. Almeer so she can put it on the supporting documents to be more efficient in getting these paired with your applications.

7. **DOCUMENTATION NEEDED**
   - High school transcript showing all courses completed to-date.
- Mid-term/first semester grades from final year (VERY IMPORTANT).
- School profile.
- SAT scores (you must send them from the testing service).
- Documents must be official (school seal/signature).
- Scholarship candidates may need to submit references, a CV, and/or an essay.

8. **RECOMMENDATIONS & ESSAYS**

- Increasingly becoming part of the application.
- Often needed for scholarships.
- Needed for co-op programs.

**TWO PATHWAYS FOR ADMISSIONS:**

1. **Using IB Diploma/certificates**
   - Will receive conditional offer based primarily on predicted IB results.
   - Will have to wait until after exam results in July for final acceptance.
   - Significant difference in Predicted and actual results could revoke admissions.

2. **Using high school program (GPA) and test scores (SAT’s)**
   - Will probably receive acceptance early semester 2.
   - Can still send IB materials as supporting documents.

**ACADEMIC PROGRAMS**

There are more than 10,000 undergraduate and graduate degree programs offered in Canadian universities as well as professional degree programs and certificates. A Canadian degree is globally recognized and considered equivalent to those from American universities and other Commonwealth universities.

**90+ INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION**

10 provinces & 3 territories.
Higher education is under the provincial jurisdiction.
Uniform quality.
Comparatively low cost- especially for Canadian citizens.
Primarily public (government funding).
Diverse and flexible.

Bachelor’s degrees in 3 or 4 years
- 3 years – Regular Bachelors
- 4 years – Honors – must do this degree to continue for graduate degrees
First professional degrees – Law, Medicine, etc, usually an additional 2 or more years
UNIVERSITY SIZE AND CHARACTER
Each university has a style all its own, from large, research-intensive campuses (30,000+) to smaller liberal arts institutions (under 5,000) with a focus on undergraduate education.

LANGUAGE AND ENROLLMENT OPTIONS
Canada has English language and French language institutions with some institutions offering instruction in both official languages.

SERVICES & PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS
Canadian universities are much more than academic institutions; they also provide support and opportunities for their students through a wide range of services and resources.

Canada as a Choice for Post Secondary Education
- High quality with relatively low cost – most are publicly funded
- Consistent quality and standards across Canada
- Low cost of living
- Wide range of options
- Diverse multicultural country
- Programs available

The application process in Canada varies somewhat from province to province. A majority of the post secondary institutions in Ontario and British Columbia use their common applications systems. The rest of Canadian universities and colleges should be contacted individually.

One very important factor and very confusing one for Lincoln students is the need for SAT Reasoning Test & SAT Subject Tests. Although a student may be a Canadian he/she MUST follow the application process as if they were applying from an American High School. This is because the Canadian tertiary institutions will interpret Lincoln credentials as if we were at school in the United States. The same is true for a non-Canadian passport holder. Always check the university catalogues for the information pertaining to "American high school graduates."

As an example, here is a direct quote from the University of Calgary website:

Applicants who are completing or have completed their twelfth year of education at an American high school may qualify for admission by obtaining acceptable scores on the SAT Reasoning Test and three appropriate SAT Subject Tests and present proof of a high school diploma. An early offer of admission may be granted on the basis of these scores. The SAT tests are administered by the Admissions Testing Program of the College Board. An acceptable score is considered by the University to be no mark below 400 with a minimum average of 500 over the required tests. Faculty of Nursing applicants are required to present an average of 520 or higher. However, since applicants compete for positions primarily on the basis of academic merit, higher averages will normally be required. (Official International Baccalaureate (IB) or Advanced Placement (AP) score reports may be presented for consideration in lieu of prescribed SAT Subject Tests.)
Applicants to the Faculties of Communication and Culture, Medicine (BCR), Fine Arts, Haskayne School of Business, Humanities or Social Sciences may also qualify for admission by presenting acceptable scores on the SAT Reasoning Test and a high school transcript for assessment of specific high school courses which may be acceptable equivalents to prescribed SAT Subject Tests. (Official IB or AP score reports may be presented for consideration in lieu of prescribed SAT Subject Tests.) Applicants should note that admission is on a competitive basis with consideration of both SAT scores and high school achievement.

Students may be granted Early Admission on the basis of acceptable College Board test scores and 12th grade 1st semester grades. Formal admission, however, will not be granted until such time as an official high school transcript reporting all final marks (grades 9 through 12) is received. The last day for receipt of official high school transcripts is in August.

ASD students planning to attend Canadian universities need to plan their testing schedule carefully. It will involve checking each university’s specific requirement, the dates the tests are available and of course the Lincoln school calendar. Careful planning should prevent disappointment later.

The Canadian university application deadlines usually fall during semester 2. However, the applications are often available much earlier. The counselors recommend early applications to ensure that all the supporting documentation can arrive in time for the admissions decision.

**REMEMBER**

American School of Doha provides 3 different sets of credentials that are acceptable to the Canadian Universities. The International Baccalaureate Diploma, the American High School with AP scores, and the US High School with SAT Reasoning Test & SAT Subject Tests scores. The students can use all of these to their advantage. If they present a strong academic program, with good SAT scores they can actually receive their acceptances as early as February. If they want to wait for the full IB diploma results then they will be notified of the universities decision in July. If they are accepted based on the grades and SAT scores the IB scores or AP scores help in the placement in advanced classes or selective programs.

**REFERENCE NUMBERS/APPLICATION NUMBERS**

As soon as a student applies to most Canadian universities an application number or reference number will be assigned. It is important to give this number to the counseling office as soon as you have it. We will then use this number when we send supporting documents to the universities. It makes for a more efficient application process.

**SPECIAL NOTES**

- At some universities students must apply to a specific program (eg. Arts / Engineering / Business).
- For universities with Arts and Science programs students do not need to declare a major (universities admit to a program, not to a concentration).
- Students must apply to each program for which they wish to be considered (maximum of three).
Decisions are based primarily on academic information, but non-academic information may also be considered.
Conditional offers can be made on anticipated / predicted grades.
On the average, programs/majors have specific prerequisites i.e. Business-Math & English.
Some programs have additional requirements.
Architecture, Industrial Design portfolios.

**PLEASE CHECK EARLY FOR ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS – ESPECIALLY SPECIFIC COURSES**

Many courses/programs in Canadian universities require specific coursework to enter. An example is engineering! Make sure you study the admissions requirements and even e-mail for confirmation, rather than receiving the disappointing news in April that you needed to take physics. Math studies is acceptable for some “faculties” but not for others.

It is your responsibility to check this. Remember we are in the process of registering for next year’s classes now and you have the chance to make these decisions now, when we can work them in your schedule.

Never make an assumption... I have had students be turned down for psychology because they did not have a math in their senior year.

**CHECK THESE REQUIREMENTS NOW!**

**STUDY PERMITS**

- To obtain an STUDY PERMITS a student needs a letter of acceptance & proof that they have funds to support themselves. In some cases a medical exam needed.
- It is usually processed in one day.
- Security and criminal screening will apply.
1. UCAS APPLICATIONS: ON-LINE WEB BASED
   American School of Doha’s UCAS Centre Number: 45774
   ➢ In August ask for the “BUZZWORD” for ASD.
   ➢ Students ask “referee” for statement.
   ➢ Students complete the form on line.
   ➢ Students & Parents pay.
   ➢ Form released to counselor to review & verify information.
   ➢ Counselor adds referee’s statement.
   ➢ Counselor submits the application.

2. POST SECONDARY EDUCATION IN THE UK
   ➢ 180 degree granting institutions.
   ➢ Offering over 14,000 different degree programs.
   ➢ Generally UG programs 3 years in Wales, England and N Ireland.
   ➢ 4 years in Scotland.

3. ACTUAL STEP-BY-STEP PROCESS
   ➢ Students complete the form on line.
   ➢ Students & Parents Pay.
   ➢ Form released to counselor to review & verify information.
   ➢ Counselor adds referee’s statement.
   ➢ Including preliminary predicted IB results.
   ➢ Counselor submits the application to UCAS.
   ➢ UCAS sends application to the universities.

4. STUDENTS SELECT UP TO 5 UNIVERSITIES ON THE UCAS APPLICATION
   (4 universities only for medical)
   ➢ DEADLINE Oct. 15 for Oxford & Cambridge, Imperial College
   and special programs like medicine/dentistry/veterinary, etc.
   ➢ DEADLINE Jan. 15 for most universities, but it is recommended that you
   complete the application before the winter break.
   ➢ Check other universities or special programs for deadlines.

5. STRONGLY RECOMMENDED
   ➢ IB Diploma or Certificates.
   ➢ AP Examinations.
   ➢ SAT I & II. (especially if you do not have IGCSE or GCSE scores).

Education in the UK:

THE U.K. system is SUBJECT FOCUSED – Applications are read by Admissions Officer for the degree program listed. In other words if you apply for 2 different programs in the same university it will be read twice by two different admissions officers. The decision could be different depending on the selectivity of the two different programs.

International students may work for up to 20 hours per week part-time during term time without needing to obtain permission from a government Job Centre.
Other Than Universities
The UK education system has several entry levels from the international setting depending on the education background and preparation of the students.

Access Courses and Foundation Courses
These are available to assist a student that does not have the initial qualifications but would like to get started in England. This is especially helpful for students that want to pursue a highly selective career like medicine and do not have all the prerequisites yet.

BTEC’s (Business and Technology Educational Council) and FE Institutions (Further Education)
These are a step higher in the sequence and offer programs that usually lead to diplomas or certificates and in some cases degrees. FE Institutions cover a wide range of programs including Tertiary Colleges, Colleges of Art and Design, Colleges of Commerce, Colleges of Technology and Specialist Colleges.

The Higher Education Institutions
These are the universities, university-sector colleges, and colleges of higher education and are the traditional degree granting institutions.

Foundation Degrees/Programs
There has been a move toward “foundation degrees” to replace some of the other levels of diplomas in the UK. Full information is available on the UCAS website.

STUDYING IN GREAT BRITIAN: WHAT DO I NEED TO KNOW?
This checklist can help you find the institution and course which is right for you by suggesting questions which you can put to the representatives.

1. FINDING THE RIGHT COURSE
UCAS.com has a full list of courses available and where they are offered.

Here are a few questions you may wish to ask:

➢ What qualifications will I need to be accepted to the course?
➢ What is the cost of the course?
➢ How long is the course?

2. FINDING THE RIGHT INSTITUTION
The choice of institution offering the course that you are interested in may be quite large. To try and help you decide which one is best for you, you may wish to ask the following questions:

➢ Where is the university? Is it in a town or in the countryside?
What are the tuition fees for the full year of my course and are there any other fees I would have to pay?
What are the arrangements for fees payment?
Does the university have any scholarships that I can apply for?
Are there any opportunities for casual work on campus?
How much will I need to cover the cost of maintenance (food, housing, clothes, travel, and books)?
Will I be able to stay in my accommodation over the vacation?
How many overseas students are there at the university compared with UK students? How many students are there from my country?
What sort of sports and recreation facilities are available?
What health care services does the institution have?
What sort of information will be provided before I leave home?
Will I be met at the airport by a representative of the university?

The process for applying to universities in the UK is simple. The application goes through a central processing center called **Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS)**. The applications are available online about September. The deadlines are **October 15th** for Oxford or Cambridge (and they require some extra forms) and **January 15th** for most of the universities. There may be **earlier deadlines** for some of the more selective programs, check each university’s website carefully.

**UCAS APPLICATION PROCESS**
Students at ASD now submit **ALL** of their applications to the UK by using the **UCAS on-line application** form.

1. The student should pick up the application “buzzword” from the counseling office as early August. The website has specific instructions for many questions and walks students through them in a very efficient manner.

2. Students go to the [www.ucas.com](http://www.ucas.com) website and go to the APPLY section and follow the directions to log on and set up an account.

3. Students should keep track of their log in information. It is needed throughout the application process.

4. The student then can fill out the application on-line
   ➢ Print the preview copy
   ➢ Make sure to **follow directions for personal statement**
   ➢ Double check that you have put ALL of your qualifications into the form, include SAT, ACT, AP, IB and even your senior year courses

5. The student saves their work on the application website. When the student has completed all of their parts of the application they notify their counselor.
   ➢ **Earlier is better.**

6. The student (with the counselor) reviews the application for accuracy
7. The student needs to mark each “section” complete so that the application will pass to the referee (the counselor). Make sure you have actually completed it before you check this. This includes the payment.

8. There is a question related to “nominated access” which requests person that can intervene on your behalf. Please put your counselor’s name and relationship to you “High School Counselor”. This will enable your counselor to be able to help with corrections or changes to your application.

9. The counselor adds the “referee’s statement” (the equivalent of letter of reference).
   - The counselor cannot enter their referee’s statement until the student sections are complete, including payment.
   - Payment can be made by credit card on-line.

10. The application is sent electronically to UCAS.
    - The student will receive notification of the receipt electronically.
    - In addition, the student can track the progress of the applications and the admissions status on the UCAS website.

11. Students will hold 2 “conditional” offers
    - one first choice
    - one reserve

REFEREE’S STATEMENT
This is the equivalent of a letter of recommendation. Although the UCAS form only asks for one referee’s statement, if the student asks a couple of teachers for a recommendation, then the counselor can incorporate these comments into the statement. But remember there is space limitation.

The rest of the process revolves around a timeline of conditional offers made in February/March, students accepting 2 (one first choice, one reserve) and then after the end of the year and all external exams are completed, the confirmation of the offers are made by the universities. This year many of the conditional offers arrived as early as January especially for the students that applied early!

If a student does not receive a conditional offer, the process of re-application to other programs called clearing is open where there are still positions available. This is the process used to match the students with universities that still have openings available in the courses the student is interested in studying.

ADDITIONAL REQUESTS
Ox-Bridge applicants that successfully pass through the first round, are often asked to come to the campus for interviews. Keep this in mind as you make these applications. They also, occasionally ask for additional materials from the students such as recent “graded essays” to show the caliber of their current work.

All of the UK universities will ask for predicted IB results and your counselor and the IB coordinator will provide these as soon as we can. For Oxford and Cambridge we will ask for these earlier to facilitate the process.
Please read carefully about the admissions process to make sure we are able to work together to provide the documentation that is needed from you, the student, and from ASD in a timely manner.

CONTACT PERSON
As with all countries, it is important to remember the name of the person you talk with in interviews, on the phone or by e-mail. Please always make a note so that you can use the same contact person consistently in the process.

PERSONAL STATEMENT
The personal statement is VERY different than the essays requested for US applications. It usually asks that the student respond with information about why they would like to study their chosen subject. Please read the directions for this carefully so that your personal statement enhances your application.
SIX STEPS TO APPLYING FROM THE UCAS WEBSITE

STEP 1: Choosing Courses
Students should think carefully about the course they’d like to do at university or college. There are thousands of courses available at hundreds of universities and colleges, and each one suits some people better than others. Students need to choose their courses for the right reasons and do plenty of research before deciding where to go.

STEP 2: Applying
Students can apply for courses using the online application system; Apply. Each section of the application is explained and there is help text to answer questions. Students send their completed application to their ASD counselor, then once checked and complete, the counselor sends it to UCAS. The date students need to send the application to UCAS depends on their choices, so application deadlines need to be checked carefully.

STEP 3: Offers
Universities and colleges will decide whether to offer students a place. Applicants can check if they are accepted on the online tracking system; Track, which shows their choices and any decisions made by the universities and colleges. If they are accepted, students need to reply to their offers. If they change their mind or are not accepted, there are other options to help them find a course.

STEP 4: Results
If students are waiting for exam results, they need to be prepared for what happens next. They check Track to see if they are accepted on their chosen course. Students will need to send exam results themselves. The next steps depend on if they are accepted or not.

STEP 5: Next Steps
If students are accepted, they will receive a letter from UCAS that explains what happens next. If they receive different grades than expected or change their mind, there are other options available. They should check Track and look for course vacancies on our website to find an alternative place.

STEP 6: Starting University or College
Students need to make sure they have everything ready, such as accommodation, finances, travel arrangements, books, and equipment required for the course. They should contact the students’ union at their university or college to see what has been prepared for new students and to find out what support is available while they are studying.
UNIVERSITY APPLICATIONS IN QATAR - EDUCATION CITY

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. ACADEMIC BRIDGE PROGRAM
   - One year foundation program enhancing skills in: English, Math, Science, Computer and University preparedness.
   - Email: info-abp@qf.org.qa  Website: www.abp.edu.qa
   - 974-4454-2121/2120

2. CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY QATAR
   - Bachelor of Science in: Business Administration, Computer Science or Information Systems.
   - Email: ug-admission@qatar.cmu.edu  Website: www.qatar.cmu.edu
   - 974-4454-8500

3. GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE
   - Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service, majors in: International Politics, Culture & Politics, or International Economics.
   - Email: SFSQadmissions@georgetown.edu
   - Website: www.qatar.sfs.georgetown.edu
   - 974-4457-8200/8201

4. NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY QATAR
   - Bachelor of Science in: Journalism or Communication
   - Email: admissions@qatar.northwestern.edu
   - Website: www.qatar.northwestern.edu
   - 974-4454-5100

5. QATAR FOUNDATION EDUCATION OFFICE
   - Financial Aid: fas@qf.org.qa
   - Testing (ACT, SAT, TOEFL): ask@qf.org.qa
   - Websites: www.qf.org.qa  www.myeducationcity.com
   - 974-4454-0400

6. TEXAS A & M UNIVERSITY QATAR
   - Bachelor of Science in: Chemical Engineering, Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, or Petroleum Engineering.
   - Email: admissions@qatar.tamu.edu  Website: www.qatar.tamu.edu
   - 974-4423-0043
7. VIRGINIA COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF ARTS QATAR
- Master of Fine Arts in: Design Studies
- Email: vcuqadmissions@qatar.vcu.edu  Website: www.qatar.vcu.edu
- 974-4402-0555/0524/0530

8. WEILL CORNELL MEDICAL COLLEGE QATAR
- Two-year non-degree Pre-medical Program followed by the four-year Medical Program leading to a Doctor of Medicine Degree
- Email: admissions@qatar-med.cornell.edu
  Website: www.qatar-weill.cornell.edu
- 974-4492-8500

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Make sure that as you start your list you provide for a variety of admissions levels. Divide your college choices into three categories: REACHING, AVERAGE FOR ME, SECURE. In dividing the colleges into these categories, compare your SAT scores, IB standings, and GPA with those of each college being considered. Use the following guidelines:

- **REACH:** The average GPA, test scores or other admissions criteria of entering freshmen will be higher than yours. Make sure all of your choices are not in this category. If all are highly selective and you get turned down at one, you will most likely get turned down at all of them.

- **AVERAGE FOR ME:** The average GPA and yours will be in the same category. The other criteria for admissions (test scores, etc.) are within your profile. The other factors of admissions selectivity also fit your talents and interests.

- **SECURE (Prudent):** The average GPA and test scores of entering freshmen will be lower than yours. The main questions to ask are.... “is this a safety school for me and if accepted, would I be glad to attend? **Please Note:** Make sure you take as much care choosing schools in this category as you do for the “Reaching.” Nothing is more difficult than trying to find a replacement in April when a student realizes that they do not want to attend their safety school. Remember admission is not guaranteed at any school unless they state they are “open admissions.” We have started calling this “prudent applications”. Prudent in this case means “wise, judicious, sage, sane, sensible” applications.

Keep in mind if a student had chosen their prudent school well, they can get just as strong undergraduate education at that one as they could at the highly selective school that was too much of a reach. Lower admission requirements do not mean that it is not a good school, they are just serving a different population of students.

Students are urged to give careful consideration to providing for diversity of admissions standards in their final list of colleges. In other words, one should not apply exclusively to schools that have a reputation for being highly selective or just because the name is highly recognizable.
EARLY DECISION & EARLY ACTION

- THE BENEFITS & DRAWBACKS OF APPLYING EARLY

Counselors hear it all the time: “I don’t know where I want to go to college, but I know I need to apply for early decision!” Early decision and early action plans can be beneficial to students but only to those who have thought through their college options carefully and have a clear preference for one institution.

EARLY DECISION VERSUS EARLY ACTION

Early Decision plans are BINDING – a student who is accepted as an ED applicant MUST attend the college and will sign a statement saying so.

Early Action plans are NON-BINDING – students receive early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May 1. Counselors need to make sure that students understand this key distinction between the two plans: binding is binding.

About 400 colleges have early decision or early action plans, and some have both. Some colleges offer a non-binding option called single-choice early action, under which applicants may not apply ED or EA to any other college.

ED plans have come under fire recently as unfair to students from families with low income. In 2002 both Stanford and Yale universities replaced their binding early admissions programs with non-binding early action plans. And in 2006, Harvard College eliminated its early application program entirely, giving all applicants the same deadline, “in large part because of concerns that early admission provides an unfair advantage to applicants from privileged backgrounds,” according to the Harvard Crimson.

EARLY DECISION APPLICANTS

- Apply early (usually November) to first-choice college.
- Receive an admission decision from the college well in advance of the usual notification date (usually December).
- Agree to attend the college if accepted and offered a financial aid package that is considered adequate by the family.
- May only apply to ONE college for early decision.
- May apply to other colleges under regular admission.
- Must withdraw all other applications when accepted by ED
- Usually must give a nonrefundable deposit well in advance of May 1.

EARLY ACTION APPLICANTS

- Apply early.
- Receive an admissions decision early in the admissions cycle (usually in January or February).
- Do not have to commit to an EA college.
- May apply to other colleges under regular admission plans.
- Must give the college a decision no later than the May 1 national response date.
WHO SHOULD APPLY EARLY?

Applying to an ED or EA plan is MOST appropriate for a student who:
- Has researched colleges extensively.
- Is absolutely sure that the college he/she is applying to early is a first choice.
- Has found a school that is a strong match academically, socially, geographically, and so forth.
- Meets or exceeds the admission profile for the school for SAT scores, GPA, and class rank.
- Has an academic record that has been consistently solid over time.
- May apply to other colleges under regular admission plans.

Applying to an ED or EA plan is NOT appropriate for a student who:
- Has not thoroughly researched and visited colleges.
- Is applying early just to avoid stress and paperwork.
- Is not fully committed to attending the schools to which he/she is applying.
- Is applying early only because friends are.
- Needs a strong fall semester to bring her grades up.

The benefits of applying early
For a student who has a definite first-choice school, applying early has many benefits besides possibly increasing his/her chance of getting in. Applying early can:
- Reduce stress by cutting the time a student spends waiting for a decision.
- Saves students the time and expense of submitting multiple applications.
- Gives students more time, once accepted, to look for housing and otherwise prepare for college.
- If student is not accepted, having this information gives that student time to reassess options and apply elsewhere.

The drawbacks of applying early
- Pressure to decide: Committing to one college puts pressure on students to make serious decisions before they've explored all their options.
- Reduced financial aid opportunities: Students who apply under ED plans receive offers of admission and financial aid simultaneously and so will not be able to compare financial aid offers from other colleges. For students who absolutely need financial aid, applying early may be a risky option.
- Time crunch for other applications: Most colleges do not notify applicants of admission until December 15. Because of the usual deadlines for college applications, this means that if a student is rejected by his/her early-decision college, he/she will have only two weeks to send in other applications. Students are encouraged to prepare other applications as they wait to hear about ED/EA admission.
- Senioritis: Applicants who learn early that they have been accepted into a college may feel that, their goal accomplished, they have not reason to work hard for the rest of the year. Early-applying students should know that colleges may rescind offers of admission should their senior-year grades drop.
**Does applying early increase the chance of acceptance?**

Many students believe applying early means competing with fewer applicants and increasing their chances for acceptance. This is not always true. Schools vary in the proportion of the class admitted early and in the percentage of early applicants they admit.

Higher admission rates for ED applicants may correlate to stronger profiles among candidates choosing ED. Students should ask the admissions office whether their institution’s admissions standards differ between ED and regular applicants, and then assess whether applying early makes sense given their own profile.

**The ethics of applying early decision**

The Common Application and some colleges’ application forms require the student applying under early decision, as well as his/her parents and counselor, to sign an ED Agreement form spelling out the plan’s conditions.

**Keep in mind**

- EA/ED program specifics vary, so students should get information as soon as possible directly from their first-choice admissions staff.
- EA/ED applicants must take the October SAT and/or SAT subject Tests in order for these scores to make it to the college in time.
**COLLEGE LIST**

When you have completed your research, list those colleges that interest you the most (in no particular order) or those that you consider to be “possible” choices for further exploration.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COLLEGE</th>
<th>SAT I</th>
<th>SAT II</th>
<th>Essay Required</th>
<th>Application Deadline</th>
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**PIN AND PASSWORD CONTROL**

Record your information here and keep this list handy when you are sitting at the computer working on your applications. Don’t rely on your memory, there are a lot to remember.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>College Board SAT</th>
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5. THE IMPORTANCE OF NAVIANCE

**WHY NAVIANCE?**

Naviance has become an indispensable tool in the college application process. All of our students will rely on Naviance to send essential documents, (including transcripts, letters of recommendation, and other application supporting documents.)

Naviance has become one of the most convenient methods of researching college and career options. Students can take personality and learning style surveys as well. Naviance is a one-stop site for students at the American School of Doha to successfully navigate their high school career and prepare for university and other post-secondary options.

To log in to Naviance, or to register for the first time, go to: Connection.naviance.com/asdoha

Once logged in there are tabs for students to use:

- **COURSES:** An electronic course catalog for students to plan classes and evaluate their graduation progress.
- **COLLEGES:** Students and parents can research potential post-secondary options. It is possible to search based on criteria, grades, SAT scores and much more. It is also possible to see how ASD graduates have fared when applying to particular universities in order to gauge how you might match up.
- **CAREERS:** Students are able to research potential careers based on strengths, skills and interests. Once careers of interest have been identified, this program will identify potential majors of study as well as schools that offer said programs.
- **ABOUT ME:** This is where students can take learning style surveys we well as take our mandatory MORE ABOUT ME SURVEY that should be completed as students begin their 12th grade year.
- **MY PLANNER:** An online calendar that students can use to track their school work and college process.
6. RESOURCES

**THE BIG SIX**

These books are available in the College Center:


**WEBSITES FOR UNITED STATES COLLEGE RESEARCH**

[www.braintrack.com](http://www.braintrack.com)  
Listing (by country) of university websites from all over the world.

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)  
SAT Registration, MyRoad career program, College search program. Links to college websites, AP course and exam information.

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com)  
College search site, Summer camps and programs.

[www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com)  
College search site.

[www.collegesofdistinction.com](http://www.collegesofdistinction.com)  
Profiling 400 colleges that emphasize the 4 distinctions of: engages students, great teaching, vibrant community and successful outcomes.
WEBSITES FOR CANADIAN COLLEGE RESEARCH

www.commonapp.org
Application website.

www.fastweb.com
Financial aid search site.

www.finaid.com
Financial aid search site.

www.aucc.ca
Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada

www.aucc.ca/canadian-universities/study-programs/
Directory of Canadian Universities (DCU). A comprehensive database provides over 10,000 listings of undergraduate, master's or PhD programs. Rather than browsing through all the websites of Canadian universities, you can access all universities and programs within a single database.

www.ouac.on.ca
Ontario Universities Application Center (Ontario universities common application).

www.ucas.on.ca
Ontario Colleges Application Services (Ontario colleges common application).

www.pas.bc.ca
Post-Secondary Application Service of British Columbia (British Columbia common application).

www.cic.gc.ca
Citizenship & Immigration Canada

www.macleans.ca/universities
Maclean's Magazine ranks Canadian Universities each year.

www.studyincanada.com
For those that have questions – from the general to the specific – this is the website for studying in Canada.

www.canlearn.ca
Government website that lists accredited programs. Can learn is the one-stop online source for information on post-secondary education in Canada from colleges, scholarships, and student loan services.

www.bccie.bc.ca
www.bccat.bc.ca
www.educationplanner.bc.ca
Websites spotlights post secondary education in British Columbia.
www.edu.gov.on.ca
Ontario Ministry of Education. This site includes information about all levels of education in the province of Ontario.

http://schoolfinder.com
Find information on more than 1,400 universities, colleges and career colleges in Canada, including admission requirements, costs, scholarships, programs and contact details.

www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/training/apprenticeship/skills/training.html
Skills Connect – lists apprenticeship programs in Ontario.

http://jobfutures.ca/
This is Canada's national career planning and educational tool. It includes a short quiz to some career suggestions based on Canada's “world of work.”

www.careerccc.org/careerdirections/
Career Directions is a website that allows you to answer questions about your future and help you with a more in-depth search for career information. It also has many occupational profiles to help match your interests and ideas with existing occupations.

WEBSITES FOR UK COLLEGE RESEARCH

www.ucas.com
This is the primary site for information about tertiary studies in the UK. You may search by university or by course of study. It has the application, the search engine to look for specific courses (majors) and links to the universities.

www.acu.ac.uk
Association of Commonwealth Universities.

www.hefe.ac.uk
Higher Education Funding Council for England - A source of information about funding for education in the UK.

www.studyintheuk.org
A site recommended by the British Council.

http://uk.internationalstudent.com/study_ukeducation_system/
Explains the UK education system.

www.studyinbritian.com
This site has information available to research UK and Irish institutions.

www.timesonline.com.uk/tol/life_and_style/education/good_university_guide
Ranks the Universities in the UK and recommends the best courses to take in order to gain employment.

www.uk-universities.net
Gives colleges and universities in the UK according to one's needs.