

# Applying to Study in the United States of America

(Including NCAA or NAIA or NJCAA students)

WGSS School Code: 821161

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### 1. Write a College Admissions Test

- have the score available for December of your Grade 12 year
- If you are an Athlete planning on playing NCAA sports have your score available in Gr.11
- **SAT or ACT: Sign-up - [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) or [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)**
- **PSAT** can be done at Mountain Secondary in min-Oct. of your Gr. 10 or 11 – (pay through School Cash Online)
- Plan to take the test two times; generally, students who take the SAT a second time improve their score 67%
- Take (free) practice tests: [KHAN Academy](https://www.khanacademy.com), and other practice tests are available online and there is a daily practice App which will score your practice test  
<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/practice>
- The test is 3 hours: Reading, Writing and Language Test, Math (optional Essay)
- It is offered 7 times a year; you must registered 4 weeks before the test date; it will take 4 weeks to get your score
- *Some schools are no longer requiring applicants to have a SAT or ACT score*
- The NCAA no longer requires athletes to write the SAT or ACT to be eligible as a student-athlete (Division 1 + 2), however, some universities may require the SAT/ACT for general admission.

### 2. High School Grades + Courses

- **Grade 9-12 Marks** - please specifically request your Grade 9 marks when you request a transcript for the US or NCAA or NAIA or NJCAA (your BC Transcript only includes gr 10-12) that is why you need to request Gr 9 marks
- Admission offices put the most weight on your high school marks and whether or not you took a challenging course load
- Note for NCAA applicants: You must have a 60% average or higher in Grade 12 courses to be eligible to play anywhere; 80% average would be the minimum of scholarship consideration;
- NCAA – Division 1 requirements: **4** years of English; **3** years of mathematics (Algebra I or higher); **2** years of natural/physical science (1 year of lab if offered by high school); **1** year of additional English, mathematics or natural/physical science; **2** years of social science; **4** years of additional courses (from any area above, foreign language or comparative religion/philosophy)

### 3. Extracurricular Involvement

- will be taken into account when applying to some schools; highly competitive school consider the application holistically in these areas: Inquisitive Mind; Analytical Thinking; Innovative Approach; Entrepreneurial Experience; Collaborative Attitude (team vs. self-focus); Strategic Thinking; Problem Solving Abilities; Natural Leader; Service-Orientated

### 4. Letters of Reference/Recommendation

- required as part of admission to some institutions – generally a teacher, coach and counsellor; ask your reference well before the deadline and give them a copy of your comprehensive resume

## 5. Admissions Essay

- required as part of your application to some institutions – allows admission officers to get a better idea of why you want to be considered for a particular program and to understand your strengths and character; having visited the institution will help you to write a more informed essay

## APPLICATION PROCESS

### A. Consider Your Options

- **Consider the program:** Will your degree be transferable to Canada? Will you need to do up-grading (e.g. nursing, law)? Would you be able to stay and live in the US?
- **Consider the cost:** You will be an international student when you study in the US unless you have American citizenship; this means you will generally pay double the tuition rate and need to factor in the exchange rate on the Canadian dollar
- **Athletes need to know that not all coaches give out “Full ride” scholarships so you may have to pay some or most of your Tuition and other Educational costs**
- **EducationUSACanada:** is available specifically to Canadian students to learn about US schools and provides 1:1 **advice, no charge**; they will review your application and essays
- <http://educationusacanada.ca/>
- **The BC contact person at Education USA is Ms. Zhaoying Hu at [zhu@educationusa.org](mailto:zhu@educationusa.org).**
- **Big Futures:** Is a comprehensive database which can help you with your research: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>
- **NCAA Sports:** Check which NCAA school sponsors your sport: <https://web3.ncaa.org/directory/>

### B. Athletes

- **Work with your coach:** to have an athletic resume, video, and to meet with scouts
- **Websites you may want to use as well:** [Athnet Get Recruited](http://Athnet Get Recruited) or [www.ncaasports.org/recruiting/how-to-get-recruited](http://www.ncaasports.org/recruiting/how-to-get-recruited)
- Institutions are not allowed to make a written offer while you are in Grade 11
- Don't forget to register with NCAA CLEARINGHOUSE- <http://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/> You can NOT be an NCAA athlete without this registration.

### C. Apply

- **Common App:** [www.commonapp.org/](http://www.commonapp.org/)
  - o Many students going to the US use the Common App; you can start this the summer after Grade 11 and will need to work closely with your counsellor to have the necessary documents uploaded by the deadlines during your Grade 12 year
- **California:** <http://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu/how-to-apply/index>
- **Other Application Sites:** [Coalition for College Application](http://Coalition for College Application), [Universal Application Service](http://Universal Application Service)
- **NCAA:** [NCAA Eligibility Center](http://NCAA Eligibility Center) [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)
  - o In order to be approved to be part of an NCAA team, all students must have their application approved by the NCAA eligibility centre
  - o Students must create an account with the NCAA Clearinghouse

- Students must send Grade 9-12 marks to the NCAA Clearinghouse and the student's final transcript, with Grade 9-12, marks must be sent by August 1<sup>st</sup> through the [Student Transcript Service](#)
- [Student Transcript Service](#) – Students must authorize release of their marks to the institutions they have applied to AND to the NCAA Clearinghouse

## **ENTRANCE TO THE USA**

Canadian Students must have the following documents before they may cross the border to study:

- I. A Canadian **Passport**
- II. The original **I-20 Certificate of Eligibility** (or DS-2019) – issued by the US School showing you have been accepted to study in the US
- III. Proof of payment of **SEVIS Registration Fee** – the Student Exchange and Visitor Information System is a web-based system for maintaining information about students studying in the US.
- IV. Proof of ability to pay **tuition and living expenses** in the US
- V. Proof of **ties to Canada**

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Helpful **timeline** for Grade 12s located on Big Futures website:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/timeline-12-grade>

Helpful **checklist** for the application process from the Big Futures website:

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-in/applying-101/college-application-checklist>