**Studeren in de VS**

Dit document is een opsomming van een aantal aandachtpunten en tips waar rekening meee gehouden moet worden als je in de VS wilt gaan studeren. Deze aandachtspunten zijn maar een aanleiding/ startpunt voor verdure studie en zeker niet compleet.

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Wil je gaan studeren in de VS moet je 2-3 jaar voor je vertrek gaan voorbereiden. Het is bij alle stappen belangrijk dat je je goed laat informeren via de officiele wegen (en niet “ik hoorde van iemand dat …”, of “ik dacht dat dat niet nodig was”). Bel of email om je vragen beantwoord te krijgen.

In het decanaat kun je een informatie-folder krijgen met algemene informatie of kijk online [www.ThinkEducationUSA.com](http://www.ThinkEducationUSA.com)

Er is veel verschil tussen de verschillende colleges/ universities. De grote, populaire universities zijn niet automatisch de beste. Oriënteer je dus goed; kijk wat ze aanbieden, hoe duur ze zijn, hoe ze omgaan met scholarships, special programma’s/ fees voor foreign students, etc.. You look for ‘the right fit’ (Wie ben ik, wat kan ik, welk doel heb ik). Het is normaal dat je je inschrijft voor 8–12 colleges of universities, om zo de kans dat je wordt aangenomen te vergroten.

What are universities looking for? Grades, Test scores, Class rank, The application essay,

extra curricular Activities, Recommendation letter, Interview, Ability to pay. Do research: brainstorm (what, where, when do I want to study).

What do I look for in an university? (Public or private, size, region, academic atmosphere, quality of life/ social atmosphere, cost issues, competitiveness).

Looking for Financial International Students-aid? [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

Bestudeer goed welke tests (SAT/ACT/TOEFL) nodig zijn voor een bepaald college. Er zijn ook colleges/ universities waarbij de SAT/ ACT tests niet nodig zijn om je te kunnen inschrijven ([www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org)).

De International School of Curacao (ISC) is een plaats waar officieel ACT/SAT/TOEFL-testen worden afgenomen. Laat je informeren via de ISC-site wanneer deze testen plaatsvinden. Ook in de verschillende kranten adverteert de ISC hiervoor.

Bedenk goed welke kosten er allemaal zijn; voor de testen moet je betalen, voor inschrijvingen moet je betalen, voor visa moet je betalen, etc.. En dat zijn alleen nog maar aanloopkosten. De echte kosten beginnen pas als je wordt aangenomen op een college.

Er zijn meer dan 3600 colleges/ universities in de VS, met elk hun eigen aanmeldingsregels en dead-lines. Er is dus (jammer genoeg) geen standaard procedure.

**Aandachtspunten:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| financien | Is het zeker dat de leerling/ ouders het kunnen betalen? |
| Waar in de VS | Hoe verder van Curacao, des te meer reiskosten.Vaak is een campus gesloten in de zomermaanden, dan kun je dus niet in je kamer blijven. Dit kan dus duur zijn. Of vervangende woonruimte of in de vakantie verplicht terugreizen naar Curacao. Heb je een apartment is het een andere situatie. |
| Accreditatie | universiteit **en** van de opleiding!! Dit doe je via ETE. Je moet er zeker van zijn dat je diploma ook geaccepteerd wordt op Curacao (Als je na je studie in Curacao wilt gaan werken, moet het diploma wel ‘geldig’ zijn). In Nederland is elke HBO- of WO-studie geaccrediteerd, in de VS zijn erg grote verschillen tussen de verschillende opleidingsinstituten en aangeboden studie’s. |
| testen | Welke testen moet ik doen; ACT, SAT, TOEFL (specifiek voor mensen uit het buitenland). De testen zijn 1 jaar geldig. Je mag meerdere tests doen, hoogste score telt. Elk college/ university heeft andere eisen en dead-lines voor application. Just follow the rules, niet denken dat je een uitzondering bent. Vaak zijn er tienduizenden aanmeldingen, waaruit misschien duizend students worden geselecteerd. **De cultuur in de VS is erg gericht op ‘the best/ outstanding’. Naast goede cijfers zijn goede prestaties op sociaal gebied (bv vrijwilligerswerk), sport etc.. van belang. Naast de testen moet je meestal ook letters of recommendation en zelfgeschreven essays inleveren. Dit kost veel tijd, orienteer je dus ruim van te voren!** De International School of Curacao (ISC) is een plaats waar officieel SAT-testen worden afgenomen. Laat je informeren via de ISC-site wanneer deze testen plaatsvinden. Ook in de verschillende kranten adverteert de ISC hiervoor.Bij de centrale inschrijving voor de SAT test heb je de schoolcode van de school nodig. Voor het KAP is dit nummer: CEB number 874100 |
| scholarship | Sport en studeren. Je maakt weinig kans. De cijfers moeten hoog zijn en je moet meestal aantoonbaar sportprestaties hebben (bv landelijk niveau, koningkrijksspelen, etc..) |
| Betalen  | Hoeveel wil je betalen: studierichting, grootte vd university, private or public.Een geschikte opleiding zoeken is ingewikkeld. Er zijn colleges/ universities die speciale tarieven hebben voor buitenlandse studenten, er zijn opleidingen die geen SAT/ ACT vereisen, etc…. De onderstaande sites kunnen je helpen bij het vinden van je meest ideale colleges/ universities.[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) [www.oacac.org](http://www.oacac.org)[www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org) |
| studentenvisum | Je kunt niet met een toeristenvisum (visa waiver program) naar de VS om daar te gaan studeren. Je moet een studenten-visum aanvragen. Hiervoor moet je veel formulieren invullen en gegevens inleveren. Ook een interview bij het consulaat hoort hierbij. Zorg dus dat je je goed voorbereidt en op tijd afspraken maakt hiervoor. Bekijk [www.cw.usconsulate.gov](http://www.cw.usconsulate.gov) voor meer informatie! |
| alternatief | Zorg ook voor inschrijving in Nederland via studielink en SSC-IBG, zodat je een alternatief hebt, voor als de VS niet door kan gaan.  |

**Tips for the Application Process**

**Getting started (all tips include paperwork and computerfiles)**

* Set up a folder for each application. Keep all material relevant to each college in its own folder. Do this for your paperwork and for youre computerfiles.
* Review all application materials as they arrive. Set up schelude for completing them. Completing applications is not much fun, and you may be inclined to put oof this task as long as you can. Procrastination is risky. There is a lot to do, especially if you have several essays to write. You may not do the application (and yourself) justice if you leave it to the last minute. Remember: Leave enough time for correcting and revising.
* Make two or more copies of the whole application to use as rough drafts and extras in case you make a serious error in ruin the original. For computerfiles: use a separate USB-stick only as back-up for youre Application Process)

**completing the Application Process:**

* Review the application and its directions completely before you start to work on it.
* Work on your rough draft in pencil or computer filecopy so that you can make changes easily
* Be accurate, honest and neat. Spell correctly and use good grammar
* When you have completed youre application, ask someone to review it and check it for errors. Keep one copy on hand in case you need to redo it.

**What colleges look for in an applicant**

|  |
| --- |
| **Proven Academic Achievement** |
| The most important factor in the college admissions decision is your academic transcript. Colleges are looking for strong grades in an academically challenging program. Specifically, they will be looking at the types of courses you have taken, the number of courses, the level of courses and the grades you earned. Did you take the most challenging academic program that you are capable of handling? How did you perform in the course you have taken? |
| **Standardized Test Scores** |
| The amount of weight placed on standardized test scores in the admissions process varies from college to college. Standardized scores provide colleges with a measure to compare students from different schools. As a general rule, the more selective the college the more important test scores are due to the rigorous and academically challenging programs offered at selective institutions. It’s important to keep in mind the standardized test scores are only one of many factors that college admission officers consider when evaluating an application. |
| **Extracurricular Involvement/ Work Experience** |
| Here the emphasis is on quality rather than quantity. College admission officers are not interested in a list of ten activities with little time commitment. Admission officers are looking for those students who have invested their time, energy and commitment to pursuing one or two activities in-depth. In short, admission officers are looking for those individuals that will make a genuine commitment to their college community. |
| **Essays** |
| This is the part of the application that students often rush to complete. The essay is a critical factor in the admissions decision and, it is entirely under your control. Take the time to think about and write an essay that demonstrates your writing ability and makes your application ‘come alive’. The essay is youre golden opportunity to let them know more about who you are, what you value and what your future goals are. There are a lot off example essays online to read and to get inspiration, but never use these templates exactly in youre essay (no copy-paste).  |
| **Interview** |
| Some colleges require or recommend an interview while others do not. For some schools, the interview is provided solely to inform you about the college and provide you with an opportunity to ask questions. For other schools, the interview provides admission officers with additional information about you and your future goals. Depending on the school, this information may or may not be used during the application decision-making process. |
| **School Recommendations** |
| The school recommendation is written by your college counselor. As youre primary advocates, we attempt to present an assessment wich is fair and accurate and wich emphasizes achievements and talents. This comprehensive letter includes information about academics; extra-curricular involvement; and, most importantly, a sense of the character of the applicant. All recommendations remain confidential to ensure integrity. |
| **Teacher Recommendations** |
| Each college has its own specific requirements for teacher recommendations, but in most cases two are requested. Some colleges are very specific and ask for recommendations from teachers in certain disciplines. The teachers you choose to write your recommendations should be from your junior and/ or senior year courses and should be able to speak to your abilities and accomplishments both in and outside the classroom. |
| **The Application Itself** |
| Presentation is everything! Never work on an original application before completing a draft copy with your college counselor. Neatness and clarity are important. The appearance and content of the application will reflect a great deal about you, therefore, it is very important that you invest time and thought into each application. Unless otherwise stated, you should always type your application |
| **Special Talents** |
| Admission officers are looking for unique individuals, students with special talents or experiences that set them apart from other candidates: outstanding musicians, writers, actors, athletes and editors. Colleges are looking for individuals whose unique talents will make significant contributions to their college communities. |
| **Outside Recommendations** |
| These recommendations can sometimes be helpful to support your out-of-school activities or work experience. |
| **Legacy Status** |
| At many colleges the daughters and sons of alumni receive special consideration in the application process. Although legacy status is not a guarantee for admission, alumni children usually get a ‘second look’. |

**College Application Checklist**

Het is belangrijk dat je je zaken goed op orde hebt. Welke college’s heb ik aangeschreven, waar moet ik wat en wanneer inleveren. Moet dit met de post, via mail, of via een internet-application-form. Het maken van een checklist is een handig hulpmiddel. Hieronder een **voorbeeld** van een checklist; het is waarschijnlijk handiger zelf een checklist te maken die je kunt aanpassen aan jouw eisen.

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Application Checklist** |  |  |  |  |  |
| College name |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Applications** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Request info/ application |  |  |  |  |  |
| Early app. deadline |  |  |  |  |  |
| Regular app. deadline |  |  |  |  |  |
| Likely? target? reach? |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Grades** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Request H.S. transcript |  |  |  |  |  |
| Request midyear report |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Test Scores** |  |  |  |  |  |
| SAT I required |  |  |  |  |  |
| SAT II required |  |  |  |  |  |
| TOEFL required |  |  |  |  |  |
| Send scores |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Letter of Rec.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Request teacher 1 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Request teacher 2 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Request teacher 3 |  |  |  |  |  |
| Send thank you notes |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Essays** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Write essays |  |  |  |  |  |
| Proof essays |  |  |  |  |  |
| Find 2 others to proofread |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Send and Track- App.** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Make copies of paperwork |  |  |  |  |  |
| Apply on-line |  |  |  |  |  |
| Include app. fee |  |  |  |  |  |
| Sign app. |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mail |  |  |  |  |  |
| Confirm supplemental mat. – if needed |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Financial Aid Forms** |  |  |  |  |  |
| Deadline for aid |  |  |  |  |  |
| Foreign Student certificate of finances-complete |  |  |  |  |  |
| US citizen FAFSA |  |  |  |  |  |
| US citizen Profile form |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mail institutional aid form, if needed |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Good Luck!** |  |  |  |  |  |

modified from [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

# Top Ten Hints For Applying To College

As freshman applicants get ready to apply to colleges, here are a few suggestions for what to do (or not do) during this process. Please understand that these are only hints, and are directed mainly towards UGA applicants, although many apply to all colleges.

David Graves, Senior Associate Director of Admissions

1. **Breathe**. Take a deep breath and relax. Many people turn the college admission process into a stressful experience. It should be a time for self-exploration and looking to the future.
2. **Be early**. When you submit your application and supplemental materials, be early. If you submit materials on or after stated deadlines, you are showing a lack of preparation and focus, and you give yourself no room for any sort of error. UGA sends out emails, phone messages, and has an online status check to give students information about their applications, but we can only start this process after you apply.
3. **Be focused**. You, the student, need to take the time to look at your interests, your likes and dislikes, your family finances, and your passions, and then look for college matches.
4. **Be active**. Take time to research colleges, visit campuses, and find out details about each college.
5. **Be organized**. Keep all relevant materials from the colleges you are passionate about, and keep them labeled in a file organizer.
6. **Challenge yourself**. Take tough courses, especially in the core areas. College classes are hard, and this is the best way to get ready for it.
7. **Manage your time wisely**. Professors will expect you to do a great deal of work outside of the classroom. The only way to do this is by having a plan in place for how you spend your time. Start managing your time now, and your first semester will not seem so hectic.
8. **Find your passion**. Find the things you love, and do them. There is no right or wrong activity, so don't waste your time taking part in "what looks good on a resume". Do the things that interest you, both academically and personally, and get involved.
9. **Be honest**. No, I am not talking about having someone else write your application essays or leaving out an arrest (these are serious no-brainers). What we mean is if you had a low grade in the sophomore year Biology or had in school suspension for excessive tardiness, don't avoid the issue and hope we overlook it. If we have to guess about what happened, we will probably think the worst. The best course is to explain what happened without excuses, and the steps you are taking to overcome the issue.
10. **Keep things in perspective**. Getting accepted by your first choice college will not ensure a perfect future, and a denial will not ruin your life. Both applicants and colleges are looking for good matches, and the best situation comes about when both sides connect.

**https://www.admissions.uga.edu/article/top-ten-hints-for-applying-to-college.html**

**Top 10 College Application Mistakes**

Senior year is hectic, but don't let that affect the quality of your college applications. Take your time, pay attention to detail and plan ahead so you can meet the deadlines.

Following are some of the top responses from counselors and admissions staff who shared the most common mistakes on college applications.

1. **Misspellings and grammatical errors**—This is a big pet peeve of admissions people. Misspellings on something as important as the application shows that either you don't care or you aren't good at spelling. Some students even misspell their intended major. But don't stop with a spell check. Proofread for grammatical errors, too.
2. **Applying online, but the application isn't actually submitted**—If you apply online, you should receive confirmation that the college or university received it. Confirmation could be an email message, a Web page response or a credit card receipt. Follow through and make sure that your application has been received.
3. **Forgotten signatures**—Make sure you sign and date the form. Often students overlook that part of the form if it's on the back. Check that all spaces are completed.
4. **Not reading carefully**—For example, if the form asks what County you live in, don't misread it as Country and write United States.
5. **Listing extracurricular activities that aren't**—Those that make the list include sports, the arts, formal organizations and volunteer work. Talking on the phone and hanging out with friends don't make the cut. Make sure your activity information is accurate. Colleges may check with your high school.
6. **Not telling your school counselor where you've applied**—Let your counselor know which colleges you're applying to, and ask him or her to review your high school transcript before sending it to colleges. Sometimes transcripts have errors.
7. **Writing illegibly**—First impressions count, so take your time and use your best handwriting. It will make a better impression.
8. **Using an email address that friends might laugh about, but colleges won't**—Select a professional email address. Keep your fun address for friends, but select an address using your name for college admissions.
9. **Not checking your email regularly**—If you've given an email address, the college will use it. You don't want to miss out on anything because you didn't read your email.
10. **Letting Mom or Dad help you fill out your application**—Admissions people know if your parents help, whether you have two different styles of handwriting or your admissions essay sounds more like a 45-year-old than a 17-year-old. It's fine to get advice, but do the work yourself.

**http://www.actstudent.org/college/mistakes.html**