

College Application Overview

Beyond Taiwan 2020

Step 1: Decide on a field of interest

Which description matches you best?

I know what I want to be in the future

My extracurriculars point me to a particular field

Do you have a broad range of interests?

Is the field you're interested in non-existent?

Choose that as your major

Interdisciplinary majors

It's okay to be "Undecided"

Choose one closest to it

Step 2: Prioritize Factors

- Academics
- Cost
- Student Life
- Size & Location
- EA/ ED/ REA/ RD
- Prestige/ranking

Step 2: Prioritize Factors

- Academics
 - Majors/ minors/ special programs (flexibility)
 - Student to faculty ratio
 - Class size/type of learner
 - Dominating fields
 - Curriculum
 - Undergrad vs graduate school
 - Study abroad options/Lab opportunities

Step 2: Prioritize Factors

- Cost
 - Need-based vs. Need-blind
 - Aid to international students (tend to be a lower tier)
- Student Life
 - Extracurriculars
 - Dorm rooms/ meal plans
 - SOCIAL LIFE & “Vibe”
 - Residential colleges
 - Ratio of international students/ Asians

Step 2: Prioritize Factors

- Career/Continuous Development
 - Career Fair reputation
 - Internship Placement
 - Co-Op program
 - BS/MS accelerated admission
- Size & Location
 - Urban vs. college town
 - Big schools vs. small schools (Rice vs. University of Michigan)
 - Weather

Step 3: Determine your tier

- Rankings:
 - US news
 - Forbes
 - Times Higher Education
- SAT Scores & GPA calculator
- Don't stress over rankings!!!

Step 4: Do your research

Where resources come from:

- School websites
- Virtual tours
- Information sessions
- College confidential, Quora, Youtube, Reddit, Unigo etc.
- **Upperclassmen/Alumni**
- When your results come out- visit if you can
- Books: Fiske Guide, Princeton Review, College Match

-> Rate your school on the factors you consider

Step 5: Split your remaining schools

- Determine your EA/ ED/ REA schools
 - EA: Early Action
 - ED: Early Decision
 - REA: Restricted Early Action
 - RD: Regular Decision
- The remaining will be RD schools- in general, you should have 10-12 (counting the UCs as one)
- 3-4 in safety, match, and reach each

Early Action

- Apply early.
- Receive an admission decision early in the admission cycle (usually in **January or February**).
- Consider acceptance offer; **do not have to commit upon receipt.**
- Apply to other colleges under regular admission plans.
- Give the college a decision no later than the May 1 national response date.

Early Decision

- Apply early (usually in November) to **first-choice college.**
- Receive an admission decision from the college well in advance (usually by **December**).
- **Agree to attend the college if accepted** and offered an adequate financial aid package.
- Apply to **only one college** early decision.
- Withdraw all other applications if accepted by ED.
- Send nonrefundable deposit well before 5/1.

Application Systems

- Common Application / Coalition Application
- University of California & University of Texas uses their own system
- Biggest difference is **essay**



GPA & Courses

- Know the rules!
 - Course design when choosing "類組"
 - 100 scale to 4.0 scale conversion
 - Ranking Weighted vs Unweighted
- Submit the transcript with better stats
- Other tips:
 - Talk to teachers
 - **Maximize efficiency**

GPA & Courses

Weighted

- Takes into account how difficult the course is
- Some colleges add 0.5 or 1 to AP & honor classes

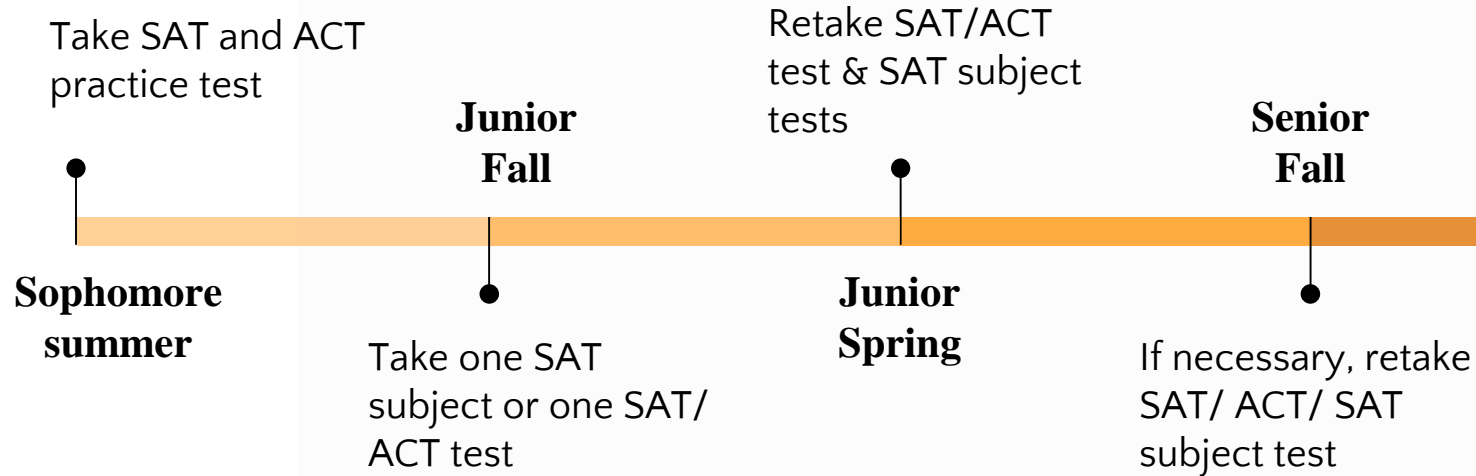
Unweighted

Out of 4.0

Standardized Testing

- **SAT vs. ACT**
 - SAT is more about your critical thinking while ACT is more about speed
 - Try both practice tests and decide which one to take
- TOEFL/ other language tests
- SAT II (subject test)
 - Usually two subjects
- SAT I Essay
 - Usually optional

A General Testing Timeline



Recommendation Letter

- Ask around **May** for a recommendation letter
- Ask for one in humanities, and one in STEM
- Ask in person
- You are legally not allowed to read it
- Be polite!

Kara White
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March 1, 20XX

XYZ College Admissions Committee
123 Business Rd.
Business City, NY 54321

Dear XYZ College Admissions Committee,

I have known Beth Crawley for the past two years, having served as both her English teacher and her supervisor on the ABC High School newspaper. I believe Beth would be an excellent addition to XYZ College.

While a student at ABC High School, Beth has always challenged herself academically. She is an active participant in class discussions and grasps material quickly. She has superb written and verbal skills that are a pleasure for any teacher to encounter. Beth even tutors incoming high school freshmen who are struggling with their English courses.

Beth also excels in extracurricular activities. She has served as the features editor of our high school paper for the past two years and has written a number of insightful, thought-provoking articles. Her ability to delegate work to her assistant editors also reflects her organizational skills and strong leadership abilities.

Beth would bring so much to your school, both inside and outside of the classroom. If you have any questions regarding Beth's qualifications, please feel free to contact me at (555) 555-5555 or Kara.White@email.com.

Sincerely,

Kara White
English Teacher and Department Chair
ABC High School

Extracurriculars

- ANYTHING you do outside of classroom
- Up to 10 slots on Common App
 - Put down the ones that matter most
 - 150 characters per extracurricular
 - Use numbers, short phrases, and **action words**
- List out the time invested per week

Activity type*

Community Service (Volunteer) x ▾

Position/Leadership description and organization name, if applicable*

President of the Dorm Committee

Please describe this activity, including what you accomplished and any recognition you received, etc.
(Max characters: 150)*

Founder of the committee, liaised between 100+ stud

Participation grade levels*

9

10

11

12

Post-graduate

Timing of participation*

During school year

During school break

All year

Hours spent per week*

2

Weeks spent per year*

44

Extracurriculars Planning Tips

- A good extracurricular makes you **stand out**:
 - Leadership
 - Impact
 - Teamwork
- Connects to your core values
- Huge impact >> long-term >> short-term
- Plan one year ahead

Essays

- Most schools require a personal statement + 1-5 supplemental essays.
- **Personal statement:** choose 1 out of 7 prompts (650 words)
- **Supplemental Essays** (around 100-400 words)
- Essays are the best way to show admissions officers *who you are* as a person, so DON'T just show what you've done.

Essays



Essays- Common Supplemental Questions

- Why did you choose this school? How will the school help you grow?
- Why did you choose this major? What particular skill do you have for this major?
- Tell a story/person who made a difference in your life.
- Reflect on your interactions with your community and what role you play in it?
- What is a social problem/issue that you care deeply about?
- How will you show your leadership at _____?

Interviews- Colleges

- Mostly offered by T10 schools/ivy leagues
- Recommended but not required
- Held by school alumni
- A casual chat about yourself
- A great chance to learn more about the schools

Interviews- 3rd Parties



- Accepted by most of the colleges
- Additional way to demonstrate English proficiency
- Strengthen profile if didn't do well on TOEFL or IELTS
- NOT required

Portfolio

- Art portfolio
 - Works
 - Descriptions
 - Art statement
- Dance portfolio
- Writing portfolio
- Research portfolio

College List

10-15 colleges (usually)

Factors to consider:

- ED vs. RD vs. EA vs. REA
- Rankings (tier)
- COST (financial aid, work-study, etc.)
- Location
- Academics
- Extracurriculars
- Student Life

Who We Are

A non-profit organization started by students from various US institutions and high schools across Taiwan.

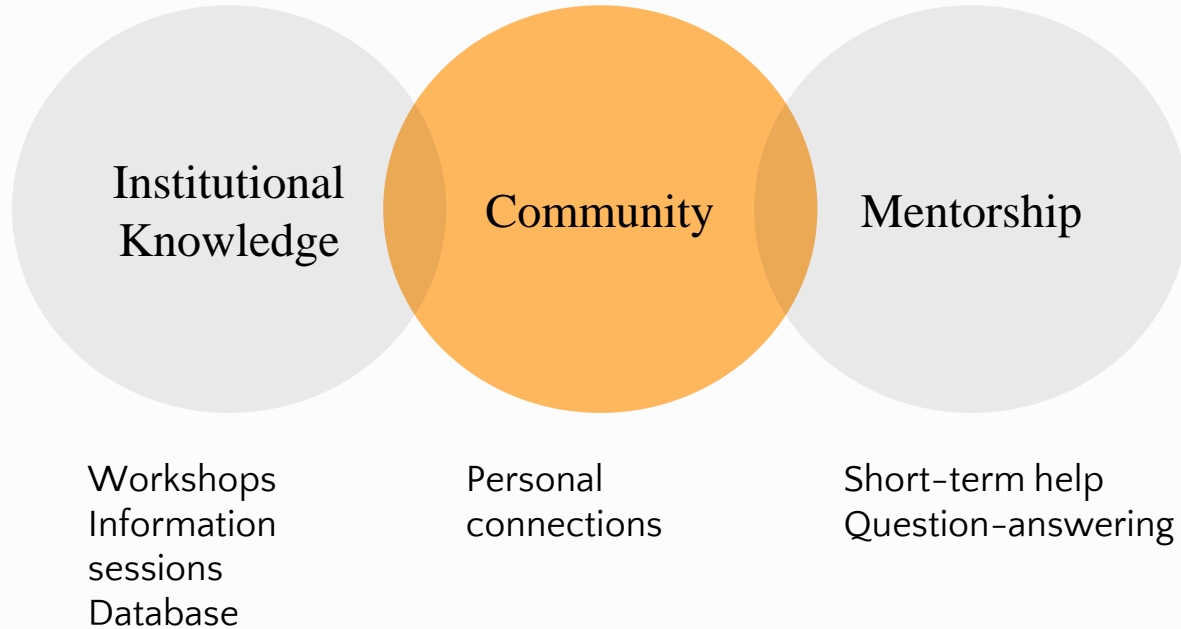
By providing resources necessary for an education abroad, we strive to make non-traditional college options accessible.

“ We believe that everyone has a right to choose their own education. ”



Beyond
Taiwan

What We Do



出國前

- AP
- VISA
- 認識學校

In College

- Club
- Class
- Dorm
- Time Management
- Office hour
- Sport
- Cultural Variety
- FOOOOOD!!

Questions?

Contact

beyondtaiwan2020@gmail.com

Or

@beyondtaiwan on Instagram &
Beyond Taiwan on Facebook

Thank you!

Questions?

Instagram: jeremiahwooo

Facebook: Jeremy Wu

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Questions?

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