

## **COLLEGE ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

It is true that different colleges look for different things in their applications for admissions. Certain factors are common to all schools in varying degrees. Also, remember graduation requirements from high school are not always the same as the admission requirements for college.

### **Academic Program, Grade Point Average and Class Rank**

A strong college preparatory curriculum and consistent record of achievement in high school is probably the best predictor of success in college. Consequently, colleges consider the student's academic program, student's grade point average and the student's rank as most significant in the competitive admissions process. Some colleges consider a "D" on a high school transcript as a serious drawback for admission.

### **College Entrance Examinations**

Colleges usually set specific requirements for the SAT Reasoning, ACT and /or SAT Subject tests. Keep track of the requirements of each college that you are interested in and whether they require **official scores** be sent to the college from the testing agency. For instance, NCAA will only accept official scores so when you take the test you will use the code **9999** for your scores to be sent to NCAA. It is your responsibility to take all the required tests for admission and request your testing record to be sent to the colleges, which you are applying. Arapahoe High School includes your standardized test scores with your transcript and this will satisfy the need for many colleges for test score reports and save you the cost of having official reports sent. The AHS testing record includes PLAN, PSAT, ACT, SAT and AP scores. Remember these test scores are used to validate your academic achievement.

### **College Essays**

Not all colleges will require essays. Some colleges will have optional essays and some will have required. Many will give general topics to write on whereas some will have very specific topics. Often the essay will be personal asking you about yourself.

## **Recommendations**

Counselors and teachers are often asked to make comments concerning a student's academic, social and personal adjustment in high school and an evaluation of the desire and motivation to succeed in college. It is important to choose teachers who are familiar with you to write your recommendations. Students should give counselors and teachers enough time to meet college deadlines (at **least two weeks**). Writing a recommendation for you is something that teachers do on their own time and as a favor to you. Be considerate and make every effort to ease the workload of your recommender. Remember not all colleges' need recommendations so do not ask for one unless needed.

## **Activities**

Most private colleges look to a student's interests and non-academic special skills evidenced in school, home, or community as supplemental information. Colleges are often looking for distinguishing features in students---relying more on a student (academic records being equal) who will make some significant contribution to campus life.

## **Interview**

Some colleges will require an interview. This will be done on or off campus by the college admissions representatives or by an alumnus. A successful college interview can provide students with that elusive "extra" that gives them an edge over another candidate with similar credentials.