

Other Admissions Considerations

Some selective colleges ask you to write a short essay to describe yourself, a significant experience, a special achievement, or to discuss some issue of personal, local or national concern and importance to you. Keep it simple and straightforward. Try not to deal with difficult ideas such as your philosophy of life or how to solve the world's problems. Don't try to "con" the admission staff with high-flown statements or obvious flattery. Work on your essay over the summer when you have time to "fine tune" it. Keeping your essay on a computer disk is helpful. With minimal changes you will be able to adapt it and send it to multiple colleges and scholarship organizations.

After reviewing your school record, recommendations, testing and motivation, the college admission committee's first concern is your ability to handle their academic program with success and reasonable comfort.

In the more highly competitive colleges, where academically qualified candidates outnumber the spaces available, the next question is which of the academically qualified applicants are admitted. **A number of other admission factors then become important: See Special talents**

- **Special Talents - A tape of a musical or dramatic performance, several slides of your art work, a sample of your creative writing, or evidence of exceptional** athletic ability is important to submit to an admissions committee. If your talent is in athletics, a contact with the college coach of your sport, as well as with the admissions office, is important.
- **Geographical mix**
- **Exceptional academic talent** - Independent research, a science fair project, or National Merit recognition may be the thing which singles you out as the candidate to accept.