



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

1. Does the ACT carry the same weight as the SAT? Do you prefer the SAT? Should I take the ACT Writing option? If I take the ACT, do I still need to take SAT Subject Tests?
2. Which subject scores of the ACT are important to your school (English, Math, Reading, Science, Writing)?
3. How do admissions committees evaluate a student's record? Do they weight courses? What types of courses are given greater or lesser weight?
4. How does the admissions committee decide who is admitted?
5. Which year's grades are considered the most important? Does the senior year count?
6. What is the worst mistake a student can make on an application?
7. How influential is the interview, whether on campus or away from the campus? Do I apply to the college first, before interviewing? Should I have an alumni interview if it is offered?
8. How important are letters of recommendation? Who should write for me?
9. What kinds of extracurricular activities and community service impress the admissions committee? Can extracurricular activities compensate for a weaker academic record or make a student more competitive in a highly selective applicant pool?
10. How important is the personal statement on the application?
11. What is the purpose of the personal statement? What will make the essay have a positive impact on the admissions committee? Are there any topics that I should avoid?
12. What points should a student highlight when asked to choose an activity or honor which means the most? Ma'ayanot does not award many honors; will this be held against me? What additional information should the student bring to the attention of the admissions committee, given the opportunity? How significant is this response?
13. Does applying for financial aid have any bearing on college admissions? What can students do if they need aid, but are not considered needy by the college?
14. Many students plan to spend a year studying in Israel after high school graduation. How is this year abroad viewed by colleges? Is credit for studies in Israel available for students who defer or reapply for admission?
15. When will your Fall 2013 application be available online?

16. What are your Honors Program requirements?