



## How can I determine my chances of being admitted to my dream school?\*

To determine the likelihood of being accepted into a college, know your SAT/ACT scores (most schools use the Superscore), GPA, and class rank. Then look on the school's Common Data Set for to discover the most recent year's Freshman acceptance rate, the range of test scores of the admitted students, as well as their class rank and GPA. Determine how selective/competitive the college is. Some major universities that appeal to many students will be highly selective simply because of the number of applications they receive.

Highly Selective: Acceptance rate below 10%  
Very Selective: Acceptance rate between 10% and 25%  
Selective: Acceptance rate between 25% and 50%  
Moderately Selective: Acceptance rate between 50% and 75%  
Less Selective: Acceptance rate above 75%

*What makes a college a **Reach**, **Match** or **Safety** (College Board terms)?*

### **SAFETY**

This is a school where the student is likely to be accepted (school admits greater than 50% of applicants) and the family can afford it. Your statistics are in the top 50% of last year's freshman class, and the college is in the less selective to selective range. You also meet/beat all other admission requirements.

### **MATCH**

- The school is in the selective range (admits >33%)
- The student's statistics are in the top 50% (ideally in or above the 25%-75% range)
- It is in the affordability range accounting for parent income, savings, scholarships, and merit aid

You are a FIT for this school and *should* be admitted, but it will depend on what other factors the college is looking for (such as being from a certain state/county, being a

dependent of a veteran, athletics, etc.). These are schools where you will hear about students who have the same statistics, but one got in and the other didn't ("I had the same SAT score and GPA as Sara, but she was accepted and I was waitlisted!"). Admissions counselors stress that the applications are looked at holistically. They are looking for candidates who round out their class (musicians, fine arts, athletics, majors, locations, etc.). They will also look at the rigor of courses on your transcript. Did you take the highest level of courses available to you? Did you complete a career or academic pathway?

## **REACH**

- The school is in the very selective-to highly selective range (<20% of applicants)
- The student's stats are below the school's 25th%ile of admitted students

A reach school is where the chances of being admitted are lower than the chances of being admitted. It may also be a reach school if the costs exceed the funds available, even with merit aid or scholarships. BUT, this doesn't mean you should not apply. Work with your consultant/counselor to improve your chances by presenting a stellar application that will set you apart.

### **\*IMPORTANT:**

Remember, these are just *guidelines* to help you in your college search. As mentioned above, there are several other factors that are considered in admissions, such as if your transcript shows rigor, whether you are OOS or applied EA vs. RD. Many schools have a higher admit rate in the Early round vs. RD round. Socioeconomic status can also be a factor.

