

How many school districts rank versus not rank? How important is it in college admissions?

Nationwide the percentage of schools that do not rank is over half. NACAC (National Association of College Admissions Counseling) has a State of College Admissions annual report. When looking at the importance of rank as a factor in admissions decisions, 65% said it was of limited or no importance. Public universities in Texas will assign a rank to any students who do not have a rank on their transcript.

TABLE 7. PERCENTAGE OF COLLEGES ATTRIBUTING DIFFERENT LEVELS OF IMPORTANCE TO FACTORS IN ADMISSION DECISIONS: FIRST-TIME FRESHMEN, FALL 2017

Factor	N	Considerable Importance	Moderate Importance	Limited Importance	No Importance
Grades in All Courses	220	74.5	15.0	5.5	5.0
Grades in College Prep Courses	220	73.2	16.8	5.9	4.1
Strength of Curriculum	219	62.1	21.9	8.7	7.3
Admission Test Scores (SAT, ACT)	221	45.7	37.1	12.2	5.0
Essay or Writing Sample	220	23.2	33.2	24.1	19.5
Student's Demonstrated Interest	218	16.1	23.9	28.0	32.1
Counselor Recommendation	218	15.1	40.4	26.6	17.9
Teacher Recommendation	219	14.2	40.2	26.5	19.2
Class Rank	220	9.1	29.1	34.1	27.7
Extracurricular Activities	219	6.4	42.9	32.0	18.7
Portfolio	219	6.4	11.9	26.9	54.8
Subject Test Scores (AP, IB)	219	5.5	18.3	35.2	41.1
Interview	219	5.5	16.4	28.3	49.8
Work	217	4.1	28.6	36.9	30.4
State Graduation Exam Scores	218	2.3	8.7	18.8	70.2
SAT II Scores	216	1.9	5.6	14.8	77.8

SOURCE: NACAC Admission Trends Survey, 2018–19.

If I choose to opt out, will that be a red flag to admissions?

Colleges will take it as an indication that students would like the admissions office to look at other factors. Based on the NACAC Admissions Trends Survey, rank is not one of the most important factors in admissions decisions. If you are unsure, call the admissions office of the school where you are applying. Admissions officers are very helpful and willing to answer your questions!

How do I find out more information about different colleges?

LISD has invested CHOICES 360 for all students! Students can access this through the Learning Hub on the LISD website.

<https://www.lisd.net/site/Default.aspx?PageType=1&SiteID=4&ChannelID=90&DirectoryType=6>

Click on Learning Hub and their LISD username and password is the log-in.

If we get offered a scholarship and we opted out, what is the process and who do we talk to to get the rank for the purposes of the scholarship?

The majority of scholarships are based on GPA but if a scholarship committee requires rank, please see your campus counselor.

If I opt out, can I change my mind and opt back in?

Once a student makes a decision to opt out, rank is removed from the student transcript.

If an admissions rep or scholarship may be impacted by changing your mind, you can reach out to your campus counselor. Many times, there is not a need to update the transcript but all decisions are made to support what is best for the student.

Is it true that in order to have the best chance at getting admitted, we need to get our application in as soon as the admissions window opens?

No. Most colleges and universities report a preference for making sure that the application includes the transcript with the senior year courses.

Where is the best place to start to see what different admissions requirements are and compare different schools?

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