

## College Readiness, College Admissions and Four-Year High School Course Plan

College admissions requirements vary across all colleges, but they have similar criteria that they like to see in students' high school transcripts upon their application into college. These criteria include **rigor of courses taken, a grade point average of 2.5 or higher, and academic electives**. The rigor of the transcript is the most important of these three criteria. In addition, college admissions like to see student commitment to activities, clubs, and athletics, as well as leadership positions. Our college counselor meets with each student to ensure that they are taking steps to applying to colleges that meet their aspirations.

As a high school student, if you have an idea of the types of schools you would like to go to, you can take steps now in your high school course planning. The following chart distinguishes schools by "types" and delineates for you the expectations that are typical or average for the freshmen who are admitted to their colleges:

Type of college	Admission Standards	Avg. ACT scores, Enrolled Freshmen, 2013-2014*	% of SCPA Alumni accepted at these institutions	High School GPA Expectation	Typical ACT(36) / SAT in Math & Reading (1600)	AP Course/ Exam Score Expectation
Highly Selective	Majority of freshmen in top 10% of their high school class	Ivy League-33 Vassar-31 Carleton-31 Davidson-30 Macalester-30	16%	3.75	28+/1220+	4+ courses/ Score of 4 or 5 on exams
Selective	Majority of freshmen in top 25% of their high school class	UM-Twin Cities-27 Gustavus-27 St. Thomas-25 UM-Morris-25 UMD-24 UW-Eau Claire-24	40%	3.5	24+/1110+  (ACT Range 21-27)	3+ courses/ Score of 3,4,5 on exams
Traditional	Majority of freshmen in top 50% of their high school class	Winona State-23 Mankato State-22 UW-Stout-22 UW-River Falls-22 St. Cloud State-21 Bemidji-21	34%	3.0	21+/990+  (ACT range 21-23)	Not Applicable
Liberal	Usually accept all high school graduates, some programs are more selective	Normandale Community College, DeVry, ITT Technical Institute, etc.	6%	1.0	18+/870+ (ACT range 18-20)	Not Applicable
Open	All high school graduates are accepted	Century, Rasmussen, etc.	4%	High School Diploma/GED	None required	Not Applicable

Your course taking in high school can open doors to types of college that you can apply to. If being ready to apply to a certain type of college is important to you, please see "\*" next to courses throughout the Upper School Curriculum Guide, that highlight courses that selective and highly selective colleges and universities will be looking for on your high school transcript. It is not imperative that you take all courses with an "\*" but rather, **take those rigorous courses in which you can earn a B- or better and that fit a balanced schedule**. Your school advisors can assist you with making these determinations.

(Source for information in the chart: State of Minnesota Office of Higher of Education and [www.naviance.com](http://www.naviance.com))