

International Education Week



Studying in the USA: You can do it!

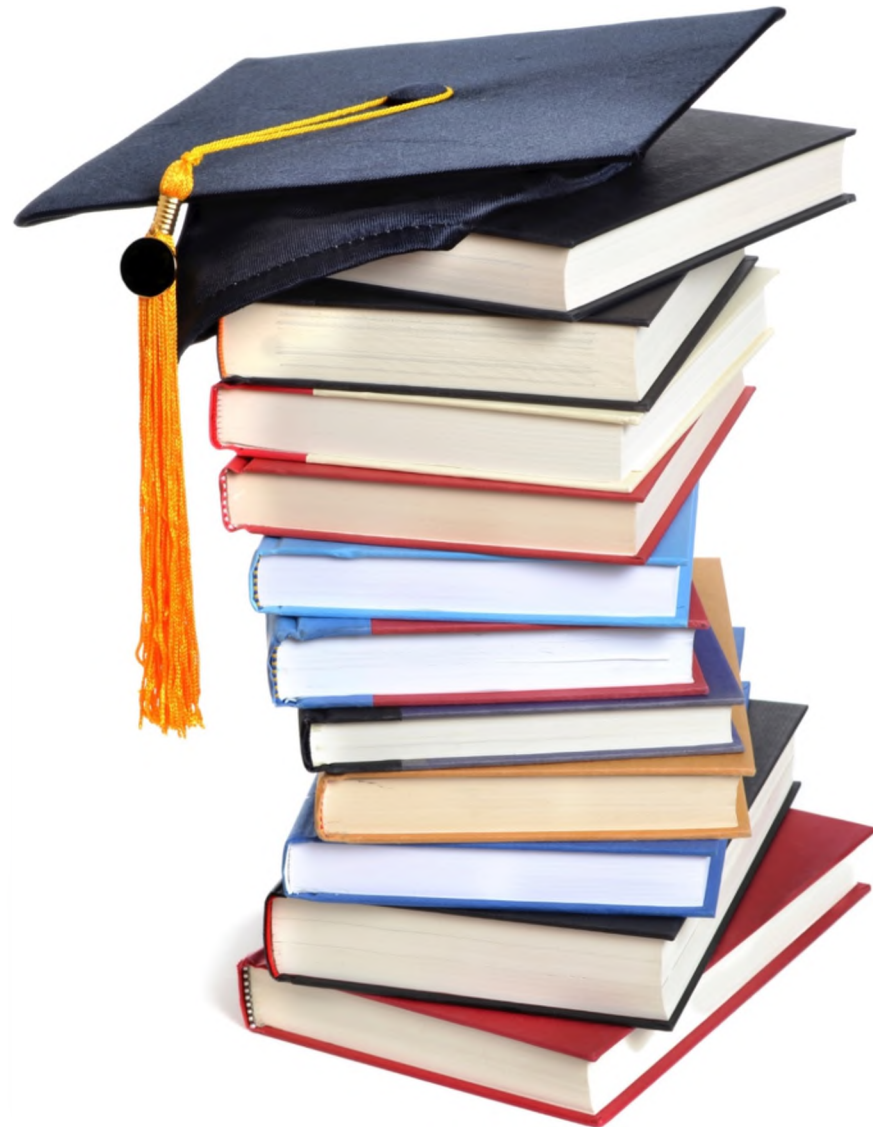
Briana Krewson

Why study (in the US)?



Options!

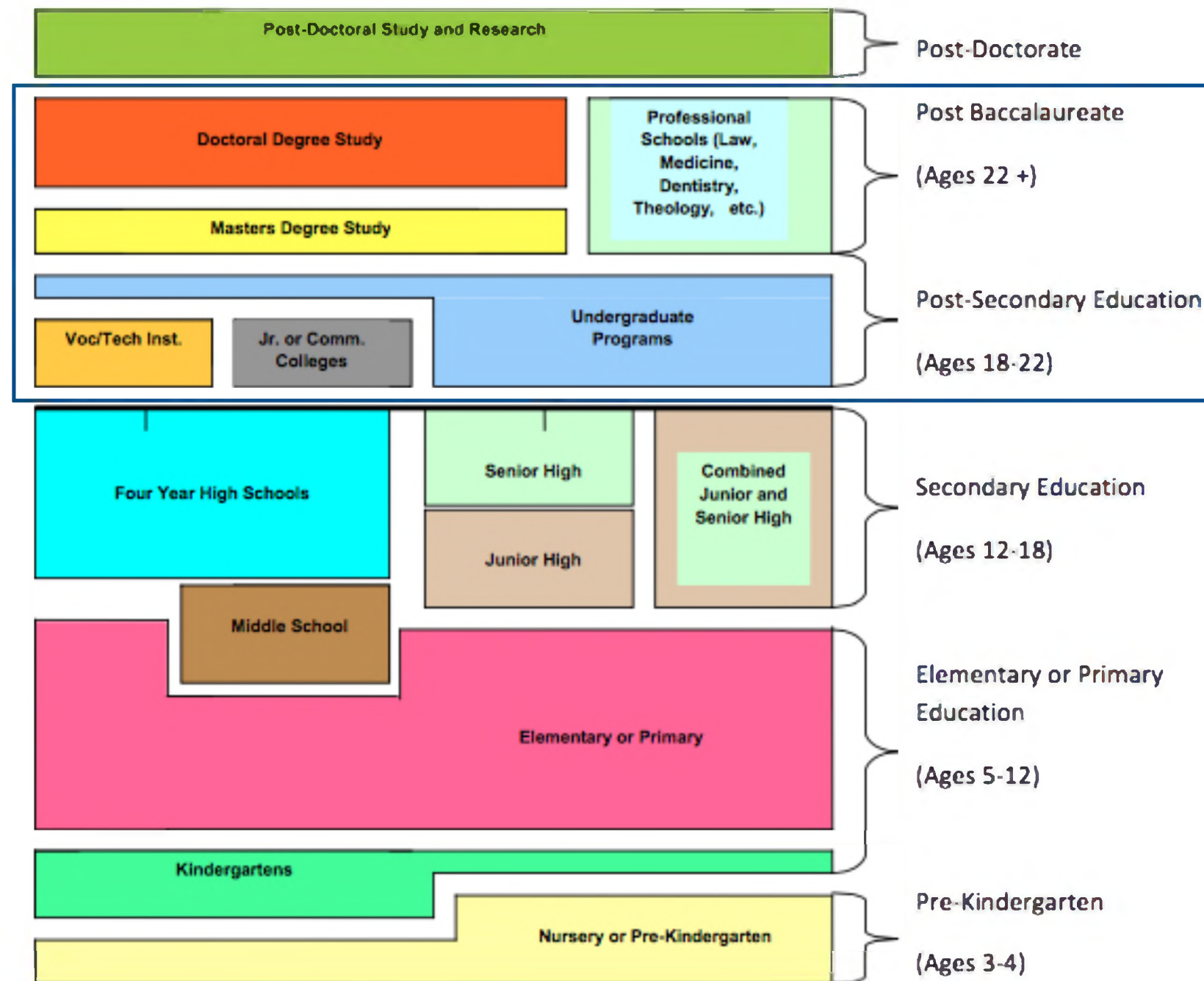
You control your academic destiny!



- **Vast range of degree possibilities**
- **Flexible class schedules (Summer sessions, Quarter schedules, night classes)**
- **Transferring**
- **Fun electives**
- **Campus life**
- **A different experience than life in Poland**

US Educational System

University Programs are Classified as Post Baccalaureate Studies



Bachelor's Degree

Bachelor's degrees at universities with 4-5 year programs

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)	Bachelor of Science (B.S.)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Humanities● English● History● Languages● Political Science● Economics● etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Chemistry● Math● Engineering● Biology● Computer Science● Psychology● etc.

Before You Apply



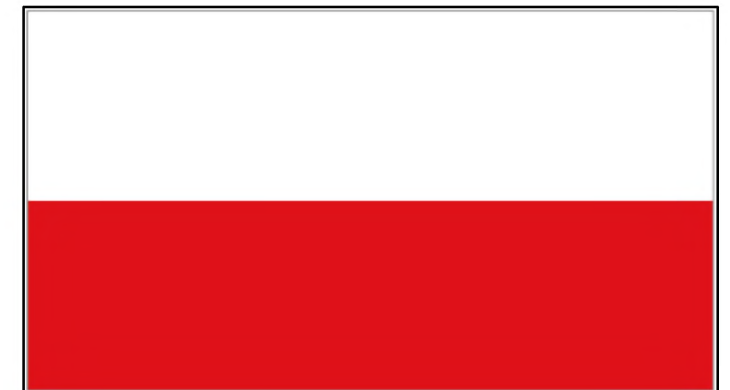
US vs. Other Places in the World

What are the major differences?

- “College”, not university
- Bachelor’s/Graduate
- Flexible scheduling
- \$\$\$/pay out of pocket/scholarships
- Live on campus
- Extracurricular activities



• ???



Questions to Ask Yourself

- What subject do I want to study?
- In which part of the US do I want to study?
- What kind of university do I want to study at?
- How am I going to fund my studies?



The Regions of the US

Each region has its own culture and benefits



Do your homework!

High schoolers begin to plan for college during Sophomore and Junior years



- Visit school databases online
- Understand their requirements
- Learn more
- Visit schools, tour campus, shadow a student

Students usually apply to 5-6 schools (a safety, within reach, reach)

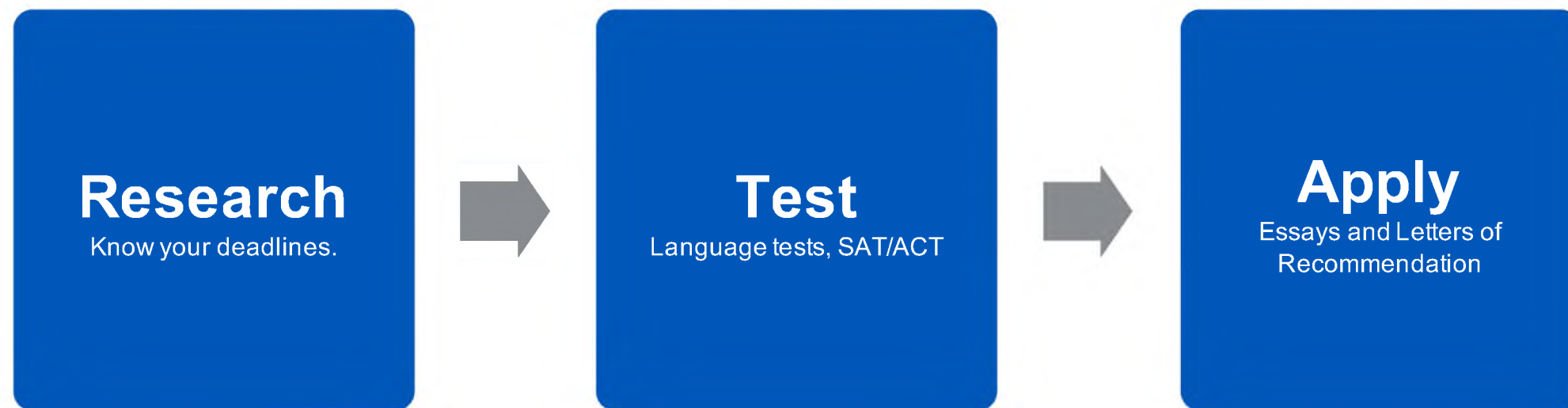
I'm ready to apply. Okay, but how?

Applications, tests, practical considerations and getting your parents onboard!



Briana Krewson
Fulbright ETA, Poland

Applications (yes, plural!)



Google Knows a Lot

But not everything! Contact the International Students Office of schools you are interested in to talk to real people too.

Study and go for it!

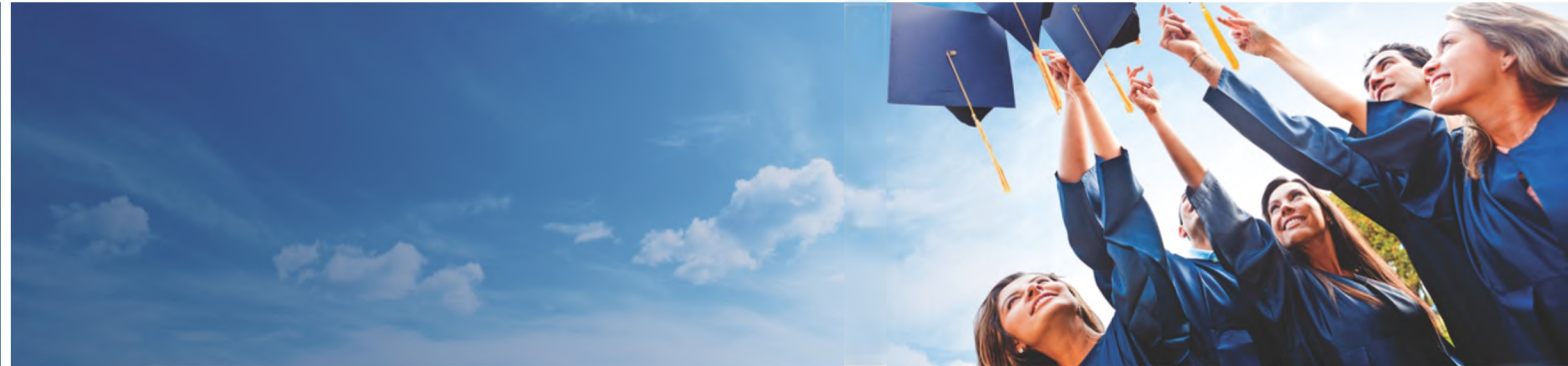
Know what tests your schools ask for.

Show (and tell) them why you're awesome!

You know you're awesome!

Language Tests: IELTS, TOEFL, TSE, and TWE

Know your schools!



TOEFL

Widely accepted in the US. Minimum score requirements vary by school.

IELTS

Becoming more accepted, check with your school. Minimum score requirements vary by school.

TSE/TWE

Frequently not required but recommended.

Dates/Locations

Check test providers' websites, know your deadlines and don't be afraid to travel.

Essays/Letters of Recommendation

Make every word count!

Tailor your essay!

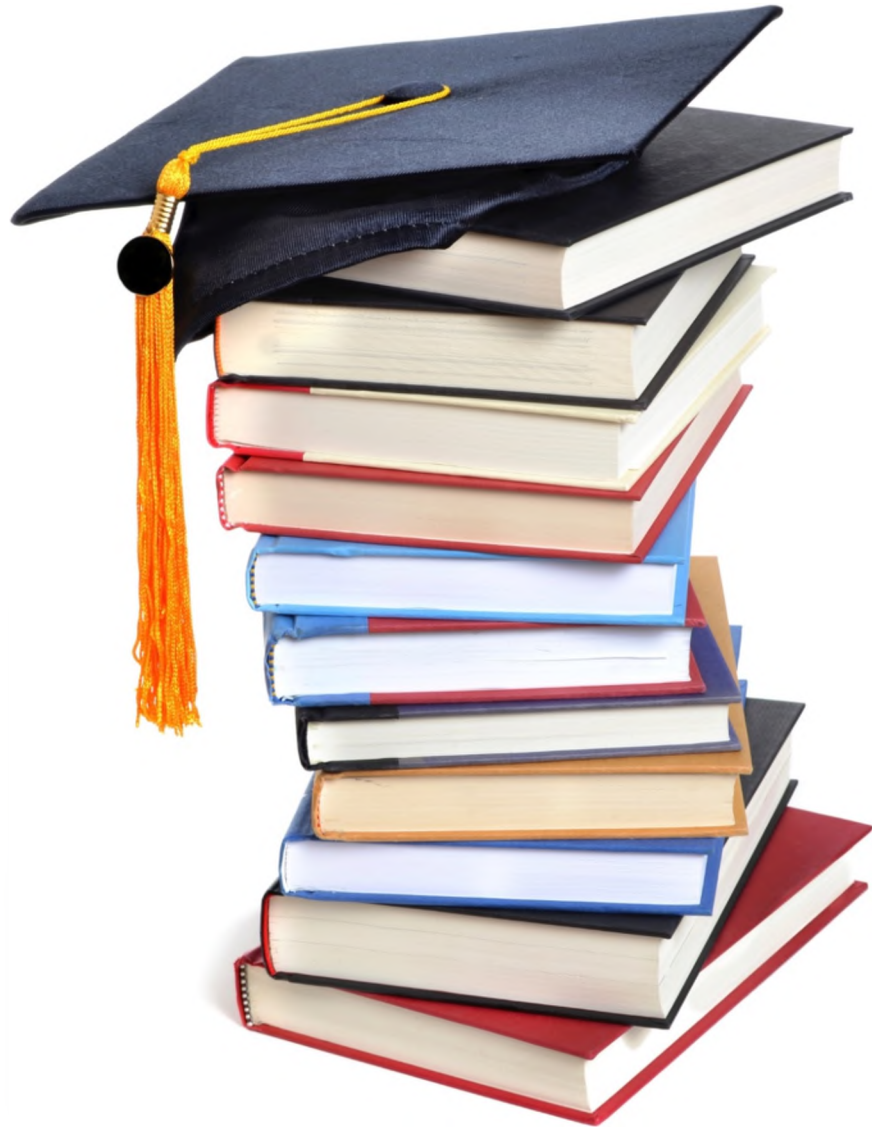
It's okay to have a template essay and add or subtract to it for different schools. Different places look for different information.

Letters of Recommendation

Ask someone who knows you well. Ask in advance. Give suggestions, accept the end result.



Practical Considerations/Things to Research

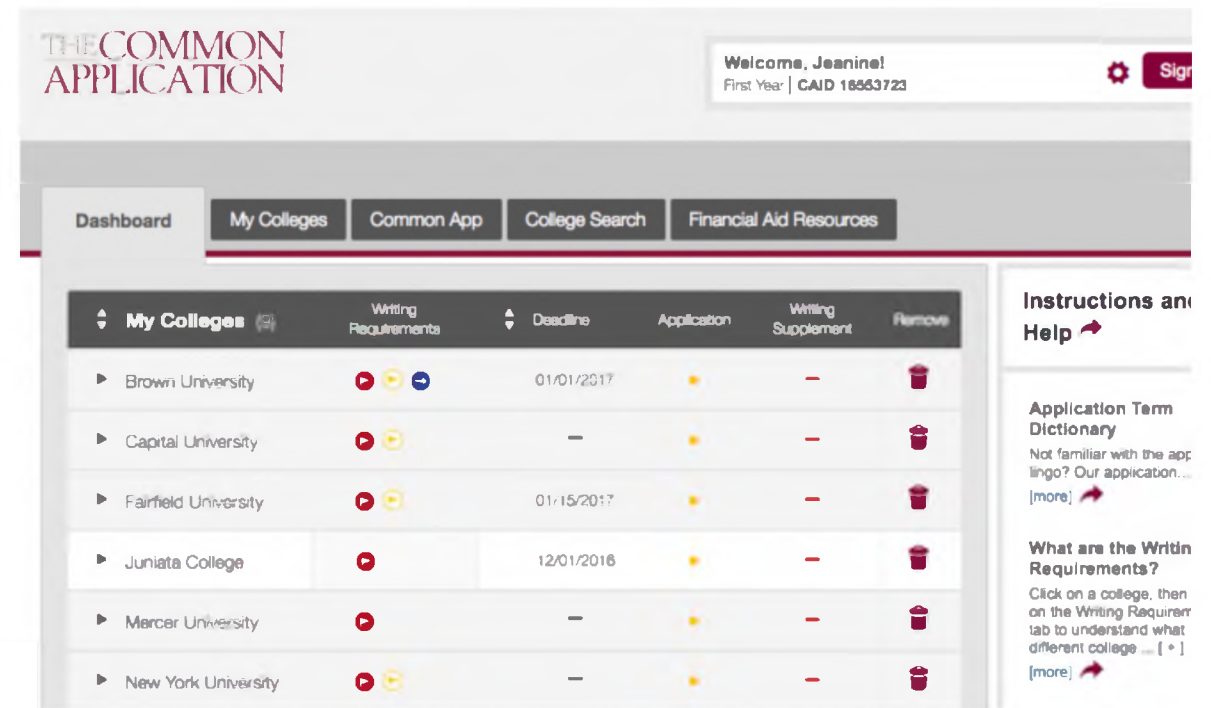


- The US is bigger than it appears on a map.
- Outside of major metro areas, public transit is terrible
- How often are you going to visit home? (fall break, winter break, spring break)
- Deadlines, Start-End dates
- Housing: On or off campus?
- Cost of living in the US is NOT cheap!

Put Your Application Together

Starting from high school, students must plan their college process

- SAT/ACT
- GPA: Grade Point Average
- Common Application
 - Essays
- Payment (parents, grants, scholarships)
 - FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)



Course	Credit Hours	Grade	Grade Points	Grade Points x Credit Hours
English	3	A	4	12
Chemistry	5	A	4	20
Psychology	3	A	4	12
Economics	3	A	4	12
Rocket Science	3	D	1	3
17		59		
59		÷	17	= 3.47
Total Grade Points		Total Credit Hours		Weighted GPA

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Champaign, IL

Overview	Admission	Money Matters	Academics	Campus Life	Students
TUITION AND EXPENSES					
Cost of Attendance		In-state: \$31,046 Out-of-state: \$46,668			
Tuition and Fees		In-state: \$15,698 Out-of-state: \$31,320			
Room and Board		\$11,308			
Books and Supplies		\$1,200			
Other Expenses		\$2,840			
Payment Plans		Credit card, installment plan			

My Experience



My College Experience

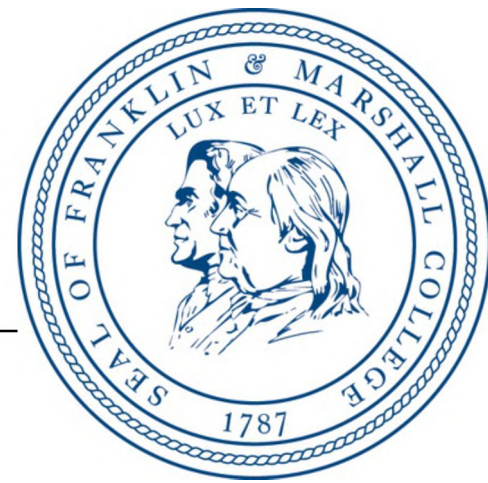
My Background

- Lancaster, PA
- Franklin & Marshall College
 - B.A. in Neuroscience



Why F&M?

- Private university
- Research opportunities
- Felt welcoming
- Close to home (but far enough away!)



Life On Campus



- First year students live in dorms
- Sororities/Fraternities
- Student apartments



Student Organizations

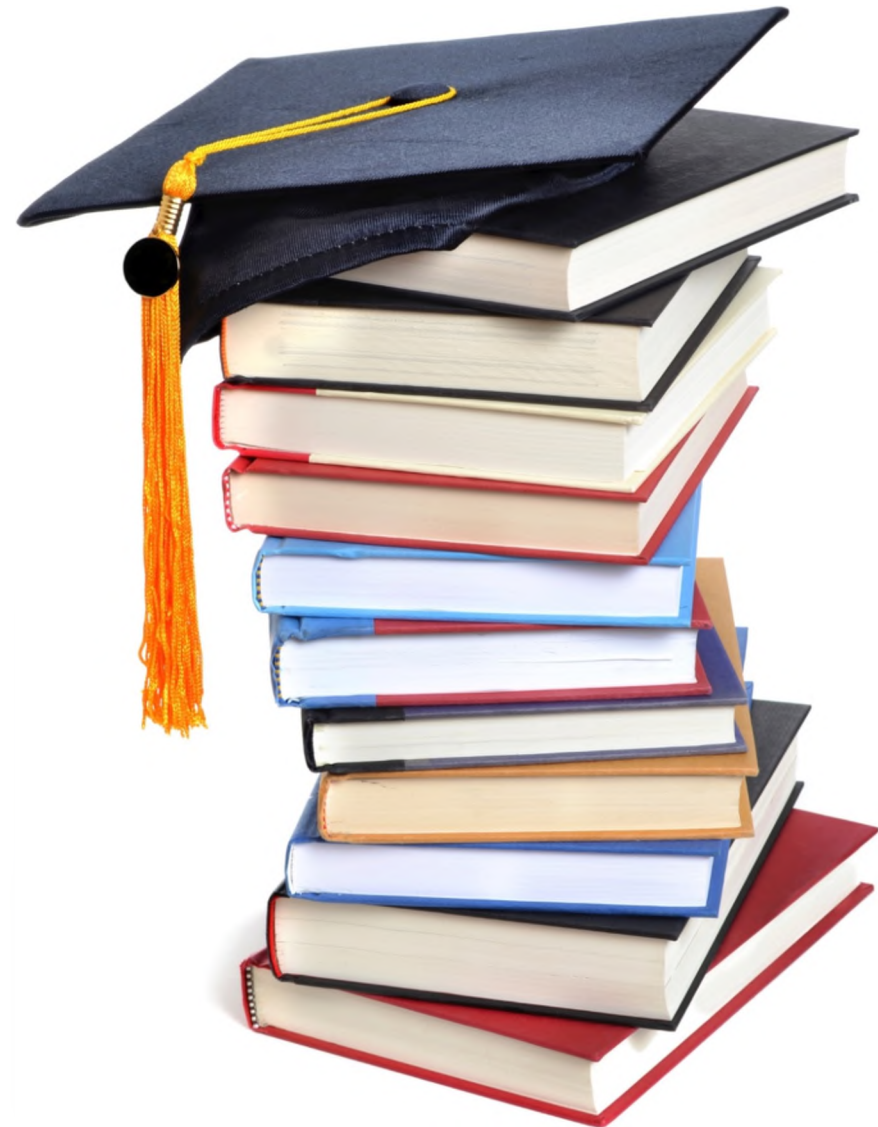
- A capella groups
- Athletic groups
- Student government
- School traditions!



International Student Support

Who can help? How?





Before you go

- EducationUSA via the American Corners
- International Student Office/Counselor at schools you are applying to

Once you're there

- International Student Office/Counselor at schools you are applying to
- Peer advisor/Resident Assistant in your dorm
- International student organizations!

Questions?

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