

Transferring to an Elite Private University

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Elite Institutions – Based on Admission Selectivity

The majority of the Universities that fit the elite profile
have a transfer rate of :

0% - 10%

Elite Institutions – Based on Admission Selectivity

Institutions that fit the definition of "Elite"

The Ivy League

Brown University

Columbia University

Cornell University

Dartmouth University

Harvard University

Princeton University

University of Pennsylvania

Yale University

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The Ivy League

Institution	Transfer Rate	Transfers Applied	Transfers Accepted
Brown University	5.60%	1,750	98
Columbia University	6.22%	2,365	147
Cornell University	20.59%	3,579	737
Dartmouth University	3.75%	799	30
Harvard University	1.04%	1,448	15
Princeton University	0.00%	0	0
University of Pennsylvania	9.40%	2,096	197
Yale University	2.68%	970	26

Source: US News and World Report, 2017

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Institutions in California that fit “Elite” profile

California Institute of Technology (Cal Tech)

Claremont McKenna College

Pomona College

Stanford University

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Other Institutions in the United States that fit the “Elite” profile

University of Chicago

Duke University

Johns Hopkins University

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Northwestern University

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Admission Criteria

GPA

Units

Major Requirements

General Education

Testing (SAT/ACT)

Extracurricular Activities

Work Experience

Essays

Letters of Recommendation

Interviews

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Grade Point Average (GPA)

Must have a 4.00 GPA to be admitted to elite universities.*

*just kidding

The elite universities being discussed in this workshop are all PRIVATE institutions. They generally do not give minimum GPA requirements for transfer admission. I never discourage an application. I do encourage that a student have multiple transfer options.

The GPA range that I will recommend will be 3.00 – 4.00. This is a recommendation NOT a requirement.

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Units

Most elite institutions require that transfer candidates complete 30 units prior to transfer.

Elite institutions prefer that transfer student's complete one year (30 units) of college prior to transfer. These institutions prefer to have transfer student's attend their school for at least three years.

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Transfer Course Requirements - Major/General Education

Elite institutions tend to be flexible when it involves identifying specific coursework required for transfer. Most do not list any REQUIRED courses needed prior to transfer.

Because admission to an elite institution is so competitive, I encourage students to follow UC/CSU educational plans that incorporate major/GE coursework.

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Testing (SAT/ACT)

The majority of elite institutions require that transfer students submit a SAT and/or ACT test score as part of the admission process.

This requirement usually extends to all students including international applicants.

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Extracurricular Activities

Most universities, not just elite institutions, want to know what a student is involved in outside of class. There are no “magic” activities that guarantee admission if you participate in them.

A guideline that I would recommend here is to seek quality over quantity.

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Work Experience

For many student's who attend community college, their most common extracurricular activity is work (for pay).

Many student's have the perception that work is not as valuable as school related extracurricular activities.

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Essays

All elite institutions will require transfer students to write multiple essays as part of the admission process.

Each institution creates its own essay questions. Writing one standard essay and sending that essay to multiple schools does not work.

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Letters of Recommendation

Most elite institutions require transfer applicants to submit at least two letters of recommendation.

The institutions prefer/require that the letters come from academic instructors.

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Interviews

If you advance far enough in the process, many institutions will ask to have you participate in an interview.

The overwhelming majority of applicants are not selected for an interview.

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Most elite institutions have admission application deadlines from February-April.

Most use the Common Application.

SMC offers workshops on how to navigate the Common Application.

QUESTIONS???????

Thank you for your attendance