Accessing Undergraduate Programs in the U.S.

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A U.S. Department of State Network

EducationUSA

A U.S. Department of State network of advising centers.

We offer accurate, comprehensive and current information about opportunities for U.S. study at accredited higher education institutions.

Services include: academic advising, information sessions (general or topic specific) with U.S. higher education institutions, University fairs, presentations at local schools, Competitive College Club, etc.

All of our services are free.

About the Higher Education System in the U.S.

- The higher education system in the U.S. is decentralized
  - Each institution can set their own application requirements and deadlines, as well as financial aid policies
- The U.S. is the top destination for international students, with 1,057,188 international students in 2022-2023.
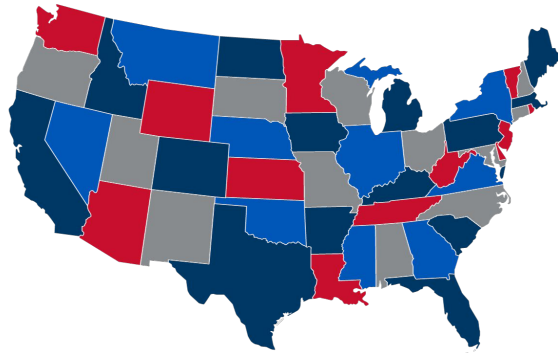
Undergraduate (*Grado*) Programs in the U.S.

- Need to complete high school studies (equivalent to *3º-4º ESO, 1º-2º Bachillerato*) to access undergraduate studies
- 4 year degree programs
  - First two years are mostly general education courses
  - Second two years focus on your major (*carrera/especialización*)
- Will earn Bachelor's Degree, most commonly a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) or Bachelor of Science (B.S.)

UNIVERSITY
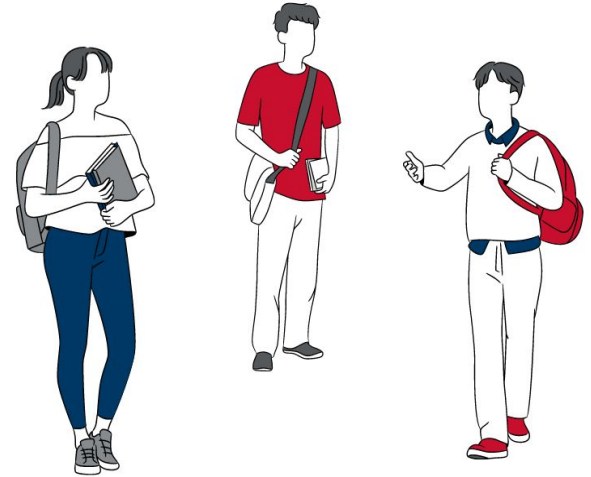**4 years**
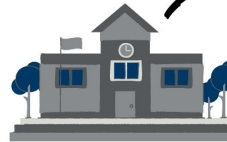
COMMUNITY COLLEGE
2 years

UNIVERSITY
2 years

The U.S. Admissions Process is Holistic

Essentially, universities want to know:

- Will the student succeed academically?
- What will the student potentially contribute to the campus community (intellectually, socially, etc.)?

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General components of an Application

- Application form
  - Standardized like Common App or via the university's own platform
- Official High School (*3º-4º ESO, 1-2º Bachillerato*) Transcripts, in English
- Personal Essay(s)
- Extracurriculars List
- Recommendation Letters from counselor and teacher(s)
- English Exam (TOEFL/IELTS/DET)
- Standardized Exams (SAT/ACT)
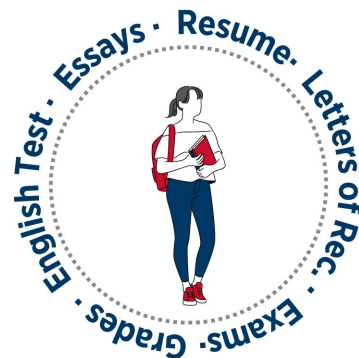
Each university sets their own application requirements.

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General Application Timeline - 2º Bachillerato

- Request official transcripts and recommendation letters
- Continue writing essay(s) drafts and preparing for exams

EARLY APPLICATION DEADLINES
- Submit completed application forms
- Complete and submit financial aid forms

Summer

September

October

November

January

- Research schools and note application requirements and deadlines
- Register and prepare for SAT/ACT and TOEFL/IELTS/DET exams
- Begin writing personal essay

- Take SAT/ACT and TOEFL/IELTS/DET
- Work on application forms

REGULAR APPLICATION DEADLINES
- Submit completed application forms
- Complete and submit financial aid forms

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Admission

- Admissions notifications are usually sent in March-April
- Confirm your attendance with the university by May 1 and receive your I-20 document
- Apply for a student visa and do visa interview at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid

For more information: educationusaspain.es

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