

# USEFP News

THE UNITED STATES EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION IN PAKISTAN  
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## What Selectivity Means for You Understanding Admissions Factors

College admissions officers across most of the nation report the same news: The number of applicants is rising, making admissions more competitive.

### Why Are Applications Increasing?

The increase comes from a surge in births during the 1980s. Children of the baby boomers are coming of age. Experts predict applications will continue to rise faster than openings at most colleges, through about 2010. The availability of online applications and the current economic climate are also contributing to the increase.

"Most schools are a little more selective than they were maybe 10 years ago," says Joan Isaac-Mohr, vice president and dean of admissions at Quinnipiac University in Connecticut. This can mean more pressure for students going through the application process.

### Benefits of Increased Selectivity

There's a silver lining. As Isaac-Mohr points out, increased selectivity means better students are going to all colleges, broadening your choice of schools with a high-achieving student population.

The number of applicants is rising, making admission more competitive. Ann Wright, former vice president for enrollment at Rice University in Texas, agrees. "There are lots of schools where students can be happy and successful," she says. Both experts encourage students and parents to consider a range of schools, rather than focusing on a single institution.

Smaller class sizes and more access to professors at small public or private colleges can be a boost to students, while some may prefer the energy and variety of a large university. It's important for you to determine your needs and academic interests and select 8 to 10 schools that make a good fit.

### What Are Colleges Looking For?

As you prepare application materials, it can help to know what schools are really looking for in the piles of paperwork.

Admissions officers evaluate applications in different ways, depending on how selective,



or competitive, their college is.

### The Levels of Selectivity

At one extreme are open admissions colleges. These schools require only a high school diploma and accept students on a first-come, first-served basis. Many community colleges have this policy. At the other extreme are very selective colleges. They admit only a small percentage of applicants each year. Most colleges fall somewhere in between.

**Less Selective:** Less selective colleges focus on whether applicants meet minimum requirements and whether there's room for more students. Acceptable grades are often the only requirement beyond an interest in college study. The SAT® or ACT may be required, but test scores are usually used for course placement, not admissions.

As many as 10 or 15 students apply for each spot at very selective schools. More Selective: More selective colleges consider course work, grades, test scores, recommendations, and essays. The major factor may be whether you are ready for college-level study. It's possible to be denied admission because of a weakness or a lack of interest in higher education.

**Very Selective:** As many as 10 or 15 students apply for each spot at very selective schools. Admissions officers look carefully at every aspect of a student's high school experience, from academic strength to test scores. Since many applicants are strong academically, other factors—such as your essay—are critical. Although they receive a great deal of publicity, only a small number of colleges are this selective.

### Admission Factors

Selective colleges consider these factors for admission:

- Courses taken
- Counselor/teacher recommendations
- Ethnicity
- Grades
- Application questions and essays
- Geographic location
- Grade point average
- Personal interview
- Alumni relationship
- Rank in class

Activities outside the classroom

Major/college applied to

Admission test results

Special talents and skills

There's no general agreement about which of these factors are ranked more important. However, most admissions officers place the most weight on your high school record.

How Important Are Extracurricular Activities?

The significance of activities has been exaggerated. While schools do consider them, they're looking to see if you've shown a long-term commitment in one or two areas.

Need-Blind Admissions

Most colleges have a need-blind admissions policy. This means they decide whether to make an offer of admission without considering your family's financial situation.

Other colleges are need-sensitive; they do consider your family's financial situation in the admissions process. These colleges know they can't satisfy the financial aid needs of all applicants. Some schools use need-sensitive admissions when deciding to accept a borderline student or to pull a student off of the waiting list.

### Matching Admissions Standards

As part of the college search, you should compare your academic and personal qualifications to those of students typically admitted to schools where you want to apply.

### Find Colleges

Use the College Search tool on [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to research two-year and four-year schools and find the programs that meet your needs.

Browse colleges with our A to Z College Search Listings or search for colleges State-by-State.

To find this article and other useful information, please visit [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).

# SQ3R: A READING TECHNIQUE

## HOW TO HIT THE BOOKS

SQ3R stands for Survey, Question, Read, Recite, Review. It is a proven technique to sharpen text-book reading skills. In college, you'll frequently be assigned multiple chapters for several different courses in books that can be quite complicated. SQ3R helps make reading purposeful and meaningful, so that you use your time most effectively. Here's how this strategy works.

### Survey

Get an idea of what the chapter is about by reviewing the highlights:

- Read the title, headings, and subheadings.
- Take note of words that are italicized or bold.
- Look at charts, graphs, pictures, maps, and other visual material.
- Read captions.
- Read the very beginning and end of the chapter.

### Question

As you survey the text, ask a question for each section. Ask what, why, how, when, who and where questions as they relate to the content. Here's how you can create questions:

- Turn the title, headings, or subheadings into



questions.

- Rewrite the questions at the end of the chapter or after each subheading in your own words.

Write down your questions. Questions help you pay attention, understand the text better, and recall the information more easily later on.

### Read

Read one section of a chapter at a time, actively looking for an answer to your question for that section. Pay attention to bold and italicized text that authors use to make important points. Be sure to review everything in the section, including

tables, graphs, and illustrations, as these features can communicate an idea more powerfully than written text.

### Recite

At the end of each section, look up from the text and in your own words recite an answer to your question for that section. Then write down your answer. Be sure to provide examples that support it.

Now repeat the Question, Read, and Recite steps for each section of the chapter or assigned reading. First ask a question for the next section. Then read to find the answer. Finally, recite the answer in your own words and jot it down. The written questions and answers will help you study in the future.

### Review

After completing each chapter or reading assignment, review your notes. Identify the main points of the reading by looking for the most important idea in each section. Recite, or write, a brief summary of the chapter or assignment.

Review your study notes every week to help you remember the information. When it's time to study for your tests, you'll find you've created an invaluable guide.

*This article & more at: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)*

## Time Management Tips for Students

Does it seem like there's never enough time in the day to get everything done? Feel like you're always running late? Here are some tips for taking control of your time and organizing your life.

### 1. Make a "To Do" List Every Day.

Put things that are most important at the top and do them first. If it's easier, use a planner to track all of your tasks. And don't forget to reward yourself for your accomplishments.

### 2. Use Spare Minutes Wisely.

Get some reading done on the bus ride home from school, for example, and you'll kill two birds with one stone.

### 3. It's Okay to Say "No."

If your boss asks you to work on a Thursday night and you have a final exam the next morning, realize that it's okay to say no. Keep your short- and long-term priorities in mind.

### 4. Find the Right Time.

You'll work more efficiently if you figure out when you do your best work. For example, if your brain handles math better in the afternoon, don't wait to do it until late at night.

### 5. Review Your Notes Every Day.

You'll reinforce what you've learned, so you need less time to study. You'll also be ready if your teacher calls on you or gives a pop quiz.

### 6. Get a Good Night's Sleep.

Running on empty makes the day seem longer and your tasks seem more difficult.

### 7. Communicate Your Schedule to Others.

If phone calls are proving to be a distraction, tell your friends that you take social calls from 7-8 p.m. It may sound silly, but it helps.

### 8. Become a Taskmaster.

Figure out how much free time you have each

week. Give yourself a time budget and plan your activities accordingly.

### 9. Don't Waste Time Agonizing.

Have you ever wasted an entire evening by worrying about something that you're supposed to be doing? Was it worth it? Instead of agonizing and procrastinating, just do it.

### 10. Keep Things in Perspective.

Setting goals that are unrealistic sets you up for failure. While it's good to set high goals for yourself, be sure not to overdo it. Set goals that are difficult yet reachable.

Consider these tips, but personalize your habits so that they suit you. If you set priorities that fit your lifestyle, you'll have a better chance of achieving your goals.

Read this and related articles online at: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/plan/college-success/116.html>

# Reading Career Profiles

## Ten Questions to Ask Yourself



What is it about a career that will satisfy you? Here are 10 questions to think about as you read through the career profiles on this website.

1. Will you enjoy the daily activities associated with this work? Will you find this career fulfilling in the long run?
2. Is this a job with a set routine? Or will you often find new things to do and new ways to do them?
3. How much responsibility will you have? How closely will you be supervised?
4. How often will you work with others?
5. What can you do now to start preparing for this line of work?
6. How much schooling will you need to be successful in this career?
7. Can you start this career right out of college? Or will you need related work experience to qualify?
8. How do the employment projections for this career compare with other careers? How important is job security to you?
9. Will you be satisfied with the typical pay in this line of work?
10. Is this career a good stepping-stone to another fulfilling career? Or will you need to go back to school to move on to something new?

Tip: After reading through one career profile that's snagged your interest, choose a related career and ask the same questions. Compare your answers regarding each career.

Review academic majors & career profiles now at:

[http://www.collegeboard.com/csearch/majors\\_careers/profiles/](http://www.collegeboard.com/csearch/majors_careers/profiles/)

### UPCOMING EVENTS AT USEFP, AUGUST 2009:

#### **USEFP Islamabad:**

An undergraduate college search seminar is scheduled to take place on Thursday, August 27th 2009 at 2:30pm

A graduate college search seminar is scheduled to take place on Friday, August 28th, 2009 at 2:30pm

#### **USEFP Lahore:**

An essay writing workshop is tentatively scheduled to take place in the month of August

#### **USEFP Karachi:**

A Visa Seminar will take place every Wednesday of the month at 3:00pm

A Graduate Education Presentation will be held every Thursday of the month at 3:00pm

An Undergraduate Education Presentation will be held every Friday of the month at 3:30pm

A Pre Departure Orientation Seminar is scheduled for Tuesday, August 18th 2009 and Tuesday, September 1st 2009 at 2:00pm

**Pease contact your local office to register for upcoming events and receive additional information:**

**Islamabad:** [advising@usefpakistan.org](mailto:advising@usefpakistan.org); **Karachi:** [advisingkarachi@usefpakistan.org](mailto:advisingkarachi@usefpakistan.org); **Lahore:** [lahoreadvising@usefpakistan.org](mailto:lahoreadvising@usefpakistan.org)

# Upcoming Test Dates for TOEFL, GRE, and SAT

## SAT:

General and Subject Test

### **Test Dates:**

October 10th, 2009

November 07th, 2009

December 05th, 2009

January 23rd, 2010

May 01st, 2010

June 05th, 2010

### **International Registration:**

Please check for early registration options for international candidates.

## iBT TOEFL:

### **Test Dates:**

October 10th, 2009

October 18th, 2009

October 24th, 2009

October 25th, 2009

October 31st, 2009

November 01st, 2009

November 08th, 2009

November 14th, 2009

November 21st, 2009

November 22nd, 2009

December 05th, 2009

December 12th, 2009

December 20th, 2009

## GRE:

The GRE Test is offered four days a week, Monday through Thursday, throughout the year.

Please visit our website or call in order to register for a particular test day.



### **United States Educational Foundation in Pakistan**

P.O Box 1128, Islamabad

Phone: 92-51-2877075,2877076,2201404

UAN:11-11-USEFP (11-11-87337)

Fax: 92-51-2877095

E-mail: [advising@usefpakistan.org](mailto:advising@usefpakistan.org)