

## **IMPORTANCE OF LEVERAGE and LEADERSHIP**

Be sure to use your **leverage** and **leadership qualities** throughout the college planning process. Leverage and leadership are key elements in determining your candidacy for admission and scholarships to your colleges of choice. Both elements are vital in helping you “stand out from the crowd”. Students who possess both are usually given opportunities not available to lesser qualified students.

Academic Record -- helps the college determine your “level of risk” to the college, i.e., marginal record = high risk, strong record = low risk. Leverage is usually measured by how far above the college’s minimum admission standards you are.

- Cumulative GPA .
- Best ACT or SAT .
- Curricular Rigor. Usually measured by the number of advanced classes you take in high school. Note: Colleges often use a two-step screening process, whereby students who are qualified after the Academic portion are advanced to the Nonacademic portion. Academic nonqualifiers are usually eliminated from further consideration.

Nonacademic Factors – helps the college determine whether you can be a “difference maker” (leader) at the college, both inside and outside the classroom.

- Activities’ Leadership. Usually measured by how much of an impact you have on others. Your passions are an excellent way to demonstrate the depth of your leadership (see Student Resume).
- Recommendations. Written or verbal testimonials from people who are aware of your academic and nonacademic qualities.
- Interest in the College. Usually measured by your campus visits, communications, etc..
- Special Talents. Talents that are special to the college. Ask the college.
- Diversity. Factors that the college uses to determine the make up of its incoming freshman class. Ask the college. Common current factors are: first generation student, socio-economic status, your intended program of study, legacy (esp., private colleges). Gender and race may/may not be considered.

How your passions can help measure the depth of your leadership qualities. See Student Resume.

A true passion is considered by colleges as any activity you like, are good at, dedicated to, and positively impacts others. It can be related to school, home, community, friends, etc.. . Use the following four steps to describe your passion:

1. List the passion. Try to limit your list to no more than two passions.
2. Time commitment (in years). Number of years spent developing the passion.
3. Leadership. “Impact Statements”. Using one or more of the following action verbs, and by giving specific examples, describe how your passion has impacted others in the past and present, and how you plan to have it impact others in the future: *coach, comfort, conduct meetings, control, coordinate, create, defend, demonstrate, direct, encourage, guide, interact, introduce, lead, lead by example, listen, manage, mediate, mentor, motivate, negotiate, new ideas, organize, oversee, plan, publish, research, set group/individual goals, strengthen, supervise, teach, tutor, unify, volunteer*.
4. If applicable, list any awards, accomplishments and recognition you have earned, or expect to earn through your passion.