



THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT U.S. UNIVERSITIES

The process for getting into U.S. Universities is different than the process familiar to most Samoans for getting into schools in Australia or New Zealand. Here are the main points to keep in mind when searching for schools in America.

- 1.) There are over 4,000 accredited universities in the United States.
 - a. Many of these specialize in or are renowned for various subjects.
 - b. Not everyone teaches the same thing.
- 2.) In the U.S. the word “college” means the same thing as “university” (not secondary school).
 - a. Typically, a four year institution will be called a university, and a two year institution will be called a college, but “college” is the term widely used to refer to university-level education.
- 3.) The U.S. government does not control U.S. universities; therefore, each university’s entry requirements may be different.
 - a. Check with the universities you would like to apply to for any flexibility in language testing or high school course selection if you do not immediately meet the requirements.
- 4.) Universities use a holistic approach to admissions decisions.
 - a. In addition to academic metrics, universities also consider a student’s experiences and attributes for an individualized look at their overall potential on campus.
- 5.) Most universities require a standardized test for admission, such as the SAT or ACT and possibly a language test such as the TOEFL. The SAT and ACT are tests similar to the PSSC that nearly all high school students in America take in order to get into universities.
 - a. Some universities do not require standardized for admission, but could look for standardized test scores when determining financial aid or scholarships.

6.) The U.S. government does not allocate scholarships. Scholarships are available directly through universities and private or community organizations.

More responsibility lies with the student to research, contact, and apply to schools and scholarships in order to attend university in America. The best place to find information about a university is through the university's website by contacting their admissions office and international department.

Please feel free to contact our office with any questions:

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