

Memoir of a Successful US University Applicant

My decision to study in America was not something that happened overnight. It was a toiling and emotional process.

The first step was undoubtedly the most crucial step of the process: taking the SAT Reasoning Test. I took about two months to prepare for this standardized college admission test and eventually overcame the first hurdle with a decent SAT score.

After some research online, I came across the United States Education Information Center (USEIC) located in Singapore. Free advising sessions were conducted for students who were keen on exploring the possibility of studying in American universities. I made an appointment, and met with the Director, Ms. Kaylor, who sat through an hour-long session to explain to me the structure of the American bachelors' degree and available programs.

Then came the tricky part: choosing the universities. I listed all the characteristics of a school that I had a preference for, and began searching for schools that corresponded with my list of criteria. I did this with help from numerous online resources that provided information for international students. I also considered schools based on a number of factors like accreditation and, of course, cost of attendance. I also took into account other secondary factors like the school's location and seasonal climate. Unlike many students who prefer smaller universities that offer more personalized attention to students, I wanted a school that had a considerably large student population. I preferred a school that would attract a diverse group of students from a variety of cultural backgrounds. After much deliberation, I narrowed down the list of schools I would apply to. At that point, some of the schools on my list were Purdue University, University of Pittsburgh and Pennsylvania State University.

Once I had a finalized list of schools that I listed according to preference and entrance difficulty, I started preparing individual applications for all the schools. This was tough as not all the schools had exactly the same admission requirements, and some required several essays on very school-specific topics. By focusing on individual applications for each school (and not using a Common Application) I was able to keep everything organized and systematic, and thus, kept the entire process error-free. I also kept copies of every document that I sent to the schools in case anything got lost in transit. I did not want to take any chances, especially with the strict application deadlines that all students dread and must follow.

After all my applications were sent out, I felt almost powerless. There was a lot of uncertainty, but at the back of my mind, I knew I had submitted good applications with well-constructed essays and credible testimonials. At that point, I did not play the "waiting game"; I started to find out more about the US student visa application and the many administrative issues that came along with it so that I would be prepared should I receive an acceptance letter.

About a month after I submitted my applications, I received acceptance letters from a few schools! The feeling of satisfaction dominated every other emotion I felt. I took several days to consult a few friends who graduated from American colleges and finally made the decision to attend Purdue University. I am extremely excited, and keen on starting my college experience in the United States of America.

*If you are interested in finding out more about the SAT standardized tests and the American university application system, or are interested in conducting a custom-made SAT preparation program at your school, please contact Testtakers Singapore by calling **+65.6728.7476**, or via email at*