



Advising on the US: Understanding the Nuances of College Choice

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What do you think when you
hear the word 'football'?





Just as there are many
different ideas of what
football is, there are many
different ideas of what
university can be

Three steps to a successful US application

Explore

Choose the right universities



Prepare

Ensure your pre-application is done well



Apply

Make sure every element of the application works to its best

The key point:

When you apply to a US university, you aren't applying to study one degree programme

Today I'll focus on 'Explore'

If you don't apply to the places you match you won't get in, however academically qualified you are

Two questions

What is the Ivy League?

How many students are in each year group in all US schools right now?

The key point:

When you apply to a US university, you aren't applying to study one degree programme



What kind of university?

What are your criteria?



Core curriculum and distribution requirements



Size of the university



Location



Selectivity



Cultural



Finances

What do you think you'll study if
you go to MIT?

MIT

For the Bachelor of Science degree, students must complete a core requirement that is equally divided between science and mathematics, and the humanities, arts, and social sciences.

The science/mathematics requirement includes chemistry, biology, physics, and calculus, as well as laboratory and science electives.

The humanities, arts, and social sciences requirement must be fulfilled by taking one course each in the humanities, arts, and social sciences, along with a three-subject concentration. Students must also complete a four-subject communications requirement.

The US System Explained...



UK degree
Set menu & final assessment



US degree
Buffet style & continuous assessment

GPA system:

A: 4

B: 3

C: 2

D: 1

Brown

Unlike other American colleges and universities, **Brown has no required core curriculum or distribution requirements** that students must complete in order to graduate. Students at Brown have unparalleled freedom to shape their own education and to make their college curricula a more thorough reflection of their own interests and aspirations.

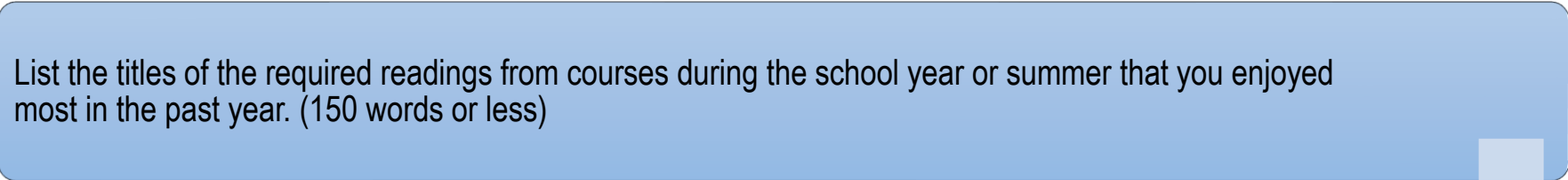
The only specific curricular requirements at Brown are that all students must successfully complete at least 30 courses in eight semesters, that every undergraduate must complete at least one concentration program (often called a “major” at other colleges), and that **students must be able to demonstrate excellent skill in written English** before they graduate.

Why does this
matter as you
explore where
to apply?

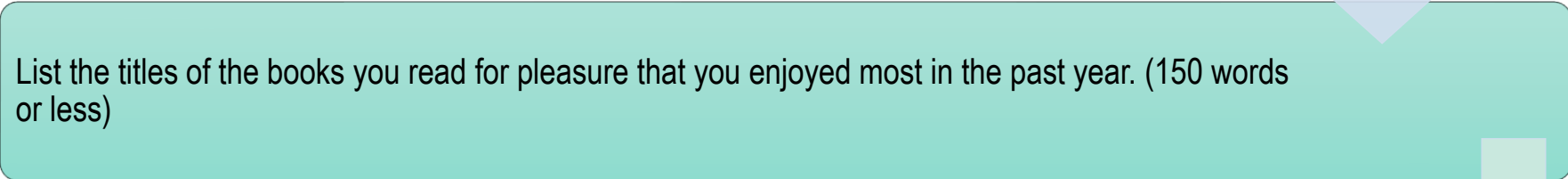
- If you apply to places without understanding if you match them, you won't get in

Columbia Questions

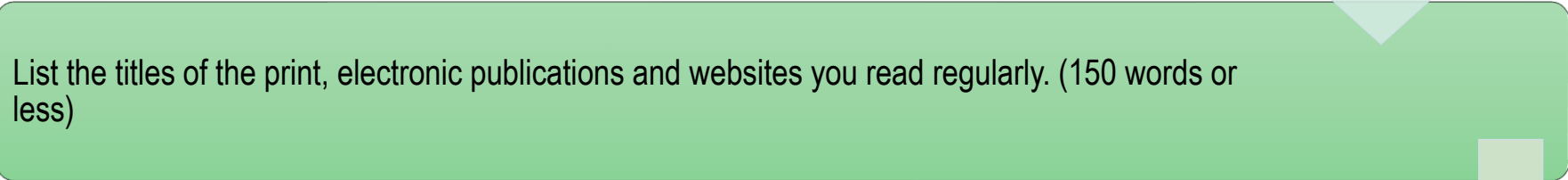
List the titles of the required readings from courses during the school year or summer that you enjoyed most in the past year. (150 words or less)



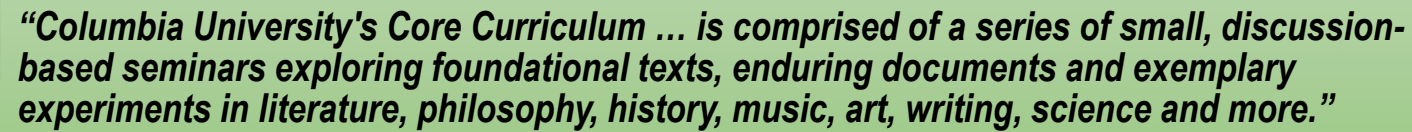
List the titles of the books you read for pleasure that you enjoyed most in the past year. (150 words or less)



List the titles of the print, electronic publications and websites you read regularly. (150 words or less)



“Columbia University's Core Curriculum ... is comprised of a series of small, discussion-based seminars exploring foundational texts, enduring documents and exemplary experiments in literature, philosophy, history, music, art, writing, science and more.”



Financial matters

Merit
Scholarship

Financial Aid

Need Blind vs
Need Aware



We make the process of applying to university less stressful: clear targets, an overarching strategy, honesty about likely outcomes and ensuring you know what needs to be done and when it must be done by;



We have strong relationships with university admissions officers at a wide range of universities in the USA, UK, Canada and Europe, making the process as smooth as possible;



We will work with your school to help them with all their side of the application;



We can help with more than just applying to one country's universities and can assist you with applications to the USA, UK, Europe, Canada and beyond.

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