

University Admissions Guidelines for Undergraduate Students: Bolashak Program

Bolashak finalists must submit:	1. Completed on-line application	2. English language essay	3. High school transcript with certified English translation	4. University transcript w/ certified English translation (if currently in university)	5. Letters of recommendation (3) in English	6. Copies of any awards, certificates, or other document showing skills or talents (with English translation)
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*Each university has its own process for assessing student applications, and does not publish exact requirements for the public to view. The following information is based on averages for general groups of universities, although exceptions may apply. **Please note that undergraduate students who have completed at least one year of university in Kazakhstan usually do not have to take the SAT.***

Tier 1 Universities	<i>Of the over 3,000 institutions of higher education in the United States, the "Tier 1" universities and colleges represent the top 25 institutions. These are the most competitive universities and have very limited slots for acceptances each year. They accept only a fraction of the qualified students to their university each year, and reject the vast majority of the excellent students who apply (85-90% are not accepted each year). Some of the Tier 1 schools have liberal arts programs only (i.e. no engineering programs).</i>
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Examples include: Brown University, Yale University, University of California at Berkeley, University of Chicago, University of Virginia, Swarthmore College, Dartmouth College, Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, others

<u>Minimum TOEFL</u>	<u>SAT Scores:</u>	<u>Deadlines:</u>	<u>Grades:</u>	<u>Acceptance rates:</u>	<u>Other:</u>
600	Above 700 (Verbal and Math)	Usually firm deadlines, 6-8 months in advance	All or nearly all A's (5's) must be shown on transcripts.	10-15% of applicants are accepted.	Essay, recommendations, awards must show student is truly exceptional (i.e. top 1% of school). Non-academic achievement is critical (volunteer work, musical ability, hobbies or talents)

Tier 2 Universities	<i>Tier 2 Universities comprise approximately 50-75 excellent academic institutions which are extremely selective in their admissions standards. These universities may not have the same international prestige of universities like Harvard or Yale, but offer educational instruction, resources, and faculty that are truly outstanding and attract extremely high achieving students. Faculty include world-renowned scientists and scholars, and the academic rigor of the programs of study is of the highest caliber.</i>
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Examples include: Boston University, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Colorado School of Mines, University of Pittsburgh, SUNY Binghamton, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, University of California at San Diego, others

<u>Minimum TOEFL</u>	<u>SAT Scores:</u>	<u>Deadlines:</u>	<u>Grades:</u>	<u>Acceptance rates:</u>	<u>Other:</u>
550	600-650s	More likely to accept transfer students, Spring admissions	High school transcripts should show only A's (5's) and B's (4's)	35-50% of applicants are accepted.	Essay and recommendations demonstrate that student is high achieving. Student should have extra-curricular interests (hobbies, sports, clubs, etc.)

Tier 3 Universities	<i>Tier 3 universities include many large, state universities that offer a broad range of fields of study, including many highly rated science and engineering programs. The educational focus is as much on the practical application of the field rather than just academic. Not as competitive for entrance as the Tier 1 and 2 schools, as they have a mandate to offer educational opportunities to all qualified state residents (at a highly subsidized tuition rate). These universities still offer very high standards of education, representing many schools in the top 200 of the country (of 3,000 institutions).</i>
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Examples include: Rochester Institute of Technology (RIT), University of Montana, University of Wyoming, University of Alabama, Michigan State University, Colorado State University, Oklahoma State University, University of South Carolina, others

<u>Minimum TOEFL</u>	<u>SAT Scores:</u>	<u>Deadlines:</u>	<u>Grades:</u>	<u>Acceptance rates:</u>	<u>Other:</u>
500-550	Mid 500s	More likely to accept transfer students, Spring admissions	High school transcripts should show most grades are B (4) or better.	70% of applicants are accepted.	Essay and recommendations demonstrate that student has shown interest and ability in field. Extra-curricular interests are helpful, not required.