

attending. Keep in mind that application fees can be expensive, so do thorough research before submitting an application. As a general rule, we recommend a **maximum** of five or six colleges. Schools can be broken up into the categories discussed below. We recommend that all students apply to at least one safety school.

### Categories

- **Safety School:** Your GPA and college entrance exam scores (SAT or ACT) are significantly above the averages reported by the college as admission requirements. Included in your safety schools should be a **financial safety** school. *This should be a school that you would like to attend **AND** could afford to attend even if you receive no financial aid.*
- **Comfort School:** Your GPA and college entrance exam scores are near the averages reported by the college as admission requirements.
- **Reach School:** Your GPA and college entrance exam scores are significantly below the averages reported by the college as admission requirements.

Please see the sample student profile below for an example of the category in which each of the colleges would fall.

Sample Student Profile: GPA – 85, SAT Score – 1050 (Based on combined Critical Reading and Math, **not** Writing)

College	Recommended GPA for Admission	Recommended SAT Scores for Admission	Admissions Category
A	80	950	Safety
B	85	1000	Comfortable
C	90	1200	Reach

Please see the Appendix for the SUNY Admissions Information Summaries (\*).

### 2 Year vs. 4 Year Colleges

One major choice that students need to make is whether they would like to attend a 2 year or a 4 year college. Some factors as to why students will choose a 2 year school include: they want to live at home, they want to save money, the career they would like to pursue only requires a 2 year degree, or perhaps they are not able to get into their “top choice” directly out of high school and they want to improve their grades to transfer to that college. (Be sure to communicate with the 4 year colleges you are interested in transferring to throughout the whole process.) Many students think of only community colleges when they think about 2 year colleges. However, there are a large number of

private and public 2 year schools that will allow you to live away from home and either graduate with the degree you need for your career, or transfer to a 4 year college. Many 2 year colleges have direct transfer programs to 4 year colleges. Like any other part of this process it is important to think about what you are looking for from your college experience, where you stand academically, and what degree you need to pursue your career when making this choice. Many students will apply to a combination of 2 year and 4 year colleges when making their final choices about applications.