

Action Set 5

This set will assist you in applying what you learned from “College Visits & Being Muslim in College”. Now we begin your major steps **specifically** towards colleges. We will aim to visit our dream schools with conviction and not nervousness and that requires championing focused goals and clever questioning. This one is much longer than previous ones, so start early!

- Build your university “Safety, Probable, & Reach (SPR) List”, which includes **only** 3 from each category.
 - Before you build this, first thing we have to do is fix your mentality of which schools are SPR for you and this is a place your mentor, parent, or older sibling can really step in and shine, because your situation is unique so the list can really vary.
 - **Rule of thumb: Go big!** Apply to some of the best schools and a handful of medium ones because **you will make your decision later anyway!** You want to be that student with a lot of good options on the table come April, not “stuck” with something.
 - Don’t overspread yourself. Let’s be real, applying to more than 9 schools will only detract from your ability to apply to any one of them very well.
 - **Your priority is your Reach schools!** Get to work on those the earliest!
 - Your list is not a terribly flexible decision. Make it count now and struggle to make it right. Again, develop a **conviction** that these are the correct 9. Don’t plan on changing or updating them regularly unless you want to shift some between categories (like move a Probable up to Reach, let’s say), and this requires a good amount of preparatory research which you should be conducting throughout the program.
 - Use the US News & World Report and other college rankings (found on Mentorship Links Center) to build a foundation for your understanding of the “good schools”. These aren’t the be all, end all. Every school has a culture, a reputation, and elicits a unique feeling that makes it appealing to a student. You should use articles, input from students in college (not your high school friends!), and teachers, to add to your holistic understanding of what a particular college is like. Nonetheless, the rankings aren’t completely bought by money; they do provide an appreciably good gauge.
 - The below is an incomplete example of an SPR List and below that is one for you to complete.
 - EA = Early Action, ED = Early Decision, “ = same as row above.
 - **Don’t worry about things you can’t change like tuition; get in first and then worry about it.** (app fee is just for tabulating to give your parents a heads up, it’s not a factor to consider)

Name	Earliest App Deadline (e.g. EA & ED)	App Fee	SAT Sitting	Avg SAT	Avg ACT	Most popular majors
Safety						
Boston University	11/15 (EA)	\$75	Highest sitting	1900	28	Bio, Business Admin, Communication Studies
UMass		“	“			
UMichigan						
Probable						
Tufts						
Northwestern						
Hopkins						
Reach						
Stanford						
MIT						
Harvard	11/1 (EA)	\$75	Highest section	2250	33	Bio, Econ, English, History, PolySci, Psych

My SPR List

University	Earliest App Deadline (e.g. EA & ED)	App Fee	SAT Sitting	Avg SAT	Avg ACT	Most popular majors
<u>Safety</u>						
<u>Probable</u>						
<u>Reach</u>						

- Update your CommonApp account. This is a good place to find important requirements for each college and continue to progress in filling them in (green triangles mean submitted; you don't have to be there yet). Make this updating a habit every so often.

My Colleges		
▲ Caltech (California Institute of Technology)	■ Cornell University	▲ Duke University
■ Harvard College	▲ Johns Hopkins University	■ New York University
■ Princeton University	■ Stanford University	■ University of Chicago

- Draft set of insightful questions to ask 1) students, 2) students in your major, 3) faculty, and 4) administration, for your visit. Memorize these and you will have a list which you can pull from at any time.

- *Example:* _____
- Q1: _____
- Q2: _____
- Q3: _____
- Q4: _____
- Q5: _____
- Q6: _____
- Q7: _____
- Q8: _____

- Create "College Visits Plan" for your Reach schools **only**, outlining when you will travel to each university, the work you will have to make up, what/who/where you will contact (like the MSA), visit, and do while there. You don't have to visit all three, but definitely visit at least one. There is no need to visit your Safety and Probable schools; you can check them out if/when you get in.

My College Visits Plan

University	Visit Date(s)	Finished planning?	With parents?	Contact MSA?	Key Places/Contacts/Notes
Reach 1					
Reach 2					
Reach 3					

Write about why your top choice school is your dream school. Provide tangible reasons.

○ _____

SAT Homework

- Complete Practice Test #4. This should take no more than 4.5 hours and aim for one sitting if you can.
 - Remember: you must complete all sections under the allotted time, **check your answers via the back of the book, and grade your SAT** (explained in the front).

SAT Score Choice List

<http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/sat-score-use-practices-list.pdf>

Harvard - highest section

MIT - highest section

Yale - all

Stanford - all

Princeton - highest section

Cornell - all

Brown - highest section

Columbia - all

Hopkins - highest section

UPenn - all

Dartmouth - highest section

Rice - all

Urbana - highest section

UChicago - highest section

UMich - highest section

Northwestern - highest section

Duke - highest section

Northeastern - highest section

BU - highest section

Tufts - all

UMass Amherst and UMass Boston - highest section

Suffolk - highest section

Mass College of Pharmacy - highest section