

## Application Strategies for the B/C Student

### Apply Broadly:

This really goes for all students, but B/C students need to be especially mindful of applying to many schools because their academic record is not as strong. The list of schools should include smaller liberal arts colleges that tend to be more flexible with students on their grades and test scores. Check out this list of “A+ Colleges” that accept B students:

<http://colleges.usnews.rankingsandreviews.com/best-colleges/rankings/national-universities/a-plus>

### Geographical/Ethnic Diversity:

Many colleges and universities strive for diversity on their campus and will look more closely at an applicant from a different part of the country. Specifically, attend college fairs in your community to get an idea of which out-of-state schools are recruiting in California.

### Test-optional Colleges:

Students with weak standardized test scores should also consider colleges where SAT and ACT scores are optional. Check out [www.fairtest.org](http://www.fairtest.org) for a list of colleges

### Wait for First Semester Grades:

If a student’s fall grades from their senior year are high enough to improve their overall GPA, wait to send a transcript until those grades are in.

### Address inconsistencies/gaps/problems:

Students tend to hope that admissions officers will gloss over some of the issues in their application if they just don’t talk about it. The best thing to do, however, is acknowledge past mistakes in the personal statement or application and focus on what was learned in the process.

### Request an in-person Interview:

Strong social skills can sometimes go a long way to compensating for weak academic performance, even at schools that don’t require an interview.

### Consider spring admission:

Applying mid-year often means that there is less competition than in the fall.

### Pre-admission programs:

Pre-admission programs are designed to ease students into college-level academics, so looking for schools with these types of programs could help students prepare and adjust to college life.

### Go the extra mile:

Call, email and visit the admissions offices of the schools you want to attend to ask about financial aid, campus life, etc. Have parents call to ask about school programs and safety. Colleges and universities record the calls, emails and visits from specific students and use that information to determine which applicants REALLY want to attend their school.