**Evaluation Criteria - Academics**

**Academic Performance in High School**
- The most competitive students in our applicant pool have taken the most rigorous high school curriculum available to them, have excelled in it, and have risen to the top of their high school class.
- Student applications are assessed both in the context of his/her particular high school and in the context of an extremely competitive applicant pool.
- No minimum grade point average or class rank is required to apply or to be admitted to Notre Dame.
- In general, the more rigorous your course selection, the better your grades, and the higher your class rank, the more competitive your application will be.

**High School Academic Requirements**
The University requires the completion of the following high school courses in order to be considered for admission. A unit is the credit for a year of satisfactory work in an accredited secondary school. The two language units required should be in the same language.

For students intending to enter the College of Arts and Letters or the Mendoza College of Business, excluding the Arts and Letters premedical/predental program and the combined Arts-Engineering program, the 16 units must be distributed as follows:
- 4 units of English
- 3 units of Algebra, Advanced Algebra, and Geometry (4 units preferred)
- 2 units of Foreign Language (3-4 units preferred)
- 2 units of Science (4 units preferred)
- 2 units of History/Social Sciences (3-4 units preferred)
- 3 units of additional History/Social Science, Science, Foreign Language, Mathematics, and English courses.

For students intending to enter the College of Science, the College of Engineering, the School of Architecture, the Arts and Letters premedical/predental program, or the combined Arts and Engineering program, the distribution must be:
- 4 units of English
- 4 units of Algebra, Algebra II, Geometry, and Advanced Mathematics (e.g. Pre-Calculus, Calculus)
- 2 units of Foreign Language (3-4 units preferred)
- 2 units of Science – Chemistry and Physics (4 units preferred)
- 2 units of History/Social Sciences (3-4 units preferred)
- 2 units of additional History/Social Science, Science, Foreign Language, Mathematics, and English courses.

Although we require at least 16 academic units for admission, our most competitive applicants will have four units in each major academic area and in the most rigorous level their high school offers.

**Standardized Tests**
- Either the SAT or the ACT is required for application.
- Highest individual SAT Critical Reading and Math subscores from multiple testing dates to compute your composite score.
- The College Board will begin administering a **redesigned SAT** in March 2016. We will accept both the current SAT and redesigned SAT from students seeking Fall 2017 enrollment and beyond.
- We will use your highest ACT composite scores from a single testing date. We do not require the writing portion of the ACT.
- SAT Subject Tests, AP tests and IB tests are only used in the application process if scores enhance an application. They are also used for credit and placement in the First Year of Studies.