

# List of Documents Required to Apply for Colleges in the USA

Your ultimate checklist to secure admission in U.S. Universities (UG & PG)

## Essential Document Checklist (For All Applicants)

Start preparing 6-12 months before your intake

- Valid Passport - Must be valid for the full duration of your course
- Completed University Application Form or Common App
- Educational Certificates:
  - 10th & 12th mark sheets (UG)
  - Bachelor's degree and transcripts (PG)
- Language Proficiency:
  - TOEFL / IELTS / Duolingo (required for most international students)
- Standardized Test Scores:
  - SAT/ACT (UG) - optional for many universities
  - GRE/GMAT (PG) - depends on program
- Statement of Purpose / Personal Essay
- Letters of Recommendation (2-3 for PG)
- Proof of Funds - Bank statement, I-134 Affidavit, or sponsor letter
- CV/Resume - Required for PG or gap cases
- Passport-size Photos (for records)
- Medical Records & Immunization Report (for university health office)
- SEVIS Fee Payment Receipt
- Application Fee Receipt (varies by university)

## UG & PG Course-Specific Requirements

Undergraduate (UG):

- 12th Grade Completion Certificate (with GPA or % equivalent)
- TOEFL 80+ / IELTS 6.0+ / Duolingo 100+
- SAT/ACT optional at many institutions post-2023
- Extracurricular profile (important for holistic review)
- Age: 17+ at time of application

Postgraduate (PG):

- Recognized Bachelor's Degree
- TOEFL 90+ / IELTS 6.5+ / Duolingo 110+
- GRE or GMAT (program-dependent)
- Work experience required for MBA, MIM, etc.
- SOP, LORs, and Resume mandatory
- Gap years acceptable with reason and documentation

## **Legal & Government Requirements for Studying in the USA**

- Form I-20 from SEVP-certified college/university
  - F-1 Student Visa application (DS-160)
  - SEVIS Fee payment (~USD 350)
  - Visa Interview: Requires I-20, academic docs, proof of funds, and passport
- Must show non-immigrant intent (proof of return intent)
- Visa Validity: Usually for full course + 60 days grace
- Health Insurance: Strongly recommended or university-provided
- Work: Allowed on-campus part-time (20 hrs/week), CPT & OPT options for internships
- No Criminal Record: Clean record preferred
- All documents in English or officially translated

## **Bonus Tip: Apply Early & Track Deadlines**

Many U.S. universities have early deadlines (Nov-Jan), especially for scholarships. Plan and apply at least 9 months in advance for best results.