

# ACADEMIC SUCCESS PREDICTORS

## 5 TIPS TO OVERCOME POOR GRADES IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Even if students did not amass the strongest academic record in high school, they have hope. They can take several steps to help [mitigate bad grades](#) that could be pulling down their overall GPA:

### 1 Ace the SAT or ACT

*Colleges take notice of students with the [highest standardized test scores](#), even if they have a poor overall GPA. An exceptional score will help display a student's potential to succeed at the college level. This is especially true of students who overcome poor grades in the early years of high school. Displaying more academic dedication toward the end of their high school career indicates the maturity and focus colleges seek.*

### 2 Accumulate Strong Recommendations

*Well-written recommendations can instruct the college admissions team to look beyond a student's GPA. This is an opportunity for an outside individual to describe the student's character and less-apparent attributes that would make them a strong addition to a college.*

### 3 Explain Poor Grades

*The personal statement is a great opportunity to explain poor grades and some of the challenges that students overcame during high school. Check out our article on [drafting a winning college essay](#) for a step-by-step guide.*

### 4 Consider Alternative Admission Offers

*Alternative paths to admission include acceptance to a different semester and acceptance to colleges of general studies before admission to a specific professional school. Students may also receive conditional acceptance as long as they earned good grades during summer session.*

### 5 Start at a Community College

*There's no single, straight path to a great degree. Students with a less-than-stellar GPA can also consider transferring from a [community college](#). This strategy allows students to build a stronger academic resume while learning the study skills they may not have developed in high school.*