



A Road to Top US Universities

入读美国名校的另一途径

As Chinese parents and students are getting better informed, more and more students realize that going to a community college and then transferring to a 4-year university is a viable (and in fact a more desirable) way towards getting a degree in the US. In fact, many found that it could afford a higher chance of getting into top-ranked (top-200) universities because of the special arrangement between community colleges and universities.

The advantages of first going through a community college include:

1. Lower Tuition

The tuition in a community college ranges from \$4,000 – 10,000 per year as compared to \$18,000 - \$40,000 for many universities in the US.

2. Low TOEFL/IELTS requirement (if any)

TOEFL requirement ranges from 400 to 500 (iBT 32 to 61) vs 550 (iBT 80) or higher in many universities.

Furthermore, most community colleges have well-developed ESL programs.

3. No SAT required

4. Gradual Acclimatization and easier transition into US college life

It is easier for international students to transition to a major university by first studying 2 years at a community college. A major university can be very intimidating for people who are new to the US education system.

5. Small class size – more personal

A typical class in a community college has about 20 students; whereas an undergraduate class can easily have 500 students in a major university. The small class size offers a distinct advantage for international students. Students get to know the instructors and the instructors can adjust the pace of the class according to the students' level.

随着电子科技日益发达，学生和家长们也纷纷走在出国留学信息的尖端。越来越多的学生和家长们意识到，在美国从公立学院转学至大学取得学位比直接申请大学更切实可行。事实上，由于很多公立学院与大学之间的合作关系，就读于公立学院的学生往往有更多被顶尖大学(200强)录取的机会。

起步于公立学院的优势包括：

1. 学费低廉

公立学院的学费每年从\$4,000到\$10,000不等。而多数大学的学费都在\$18,000-\$40,000之间。

2. 对托福、雅思成绩要求低或无要求

需要提供托福成绩的公立学院通常要求成绩在400到500分(iBT32到61)，而大学则一般要求550分(iBT 80)以上。现在很多公立学院都设有完善的英语作为第二语言(ESL)课程。

3. 不要求SAT成绩

4. 平缓过渡，使学生更容易适应美国大学生活

对于国际留学生来说，先在美国的公立学院学习两年比直接进入大学更容易适应。美国大学体制较为复杂，对新学生来说，较难了解和适应，容易导致畏惧。

5. 小班教学——更人性化

通常公立学院的每个班里有20名学生左右，而大学本科的一个班常常有500人以上。小班教学对国际学生来说有独特的优势。学生将有更多与讲师接触的机会，讲师也可以根据学生的程度调整课程进度。

6. Established priority transfers to pathway universities

In many cases, students in community colleges can get priority admission into certain partner universities as early as in November prior to the year of admission. In fact, many universities have Guaranteed Admissions arrangements for students who have a GPA of 2.00 – 3.2, depending on programs.

7. Easier to get higher GPA

It is a lot easier to get higher GPA in community colleges. Getting a GPA of 3.5 is not unusual.

8. Concurrent US HS completion (which could save 1 year of time).

For students who have not quite completed their HS program, they can enrol in certain community colleges to complete a US HS program as well as the UT program simultaneously (without additional time). Afterwards, they can transfer to a university for 2 years to get a degree.

On the other hand, there are issues unless the student knows what to do and how to select the suitable community college. The disadvantages could include:

1. There are 112 community colleges in California alone and 37 in Washington (as examples). Not all community colleges are created equal. To identify the right community college is of pivotal importance.
2. Community colleges are mainly for providing services to local students. Only certain community colleges are in fact properly equipped to handle international students (in terms of providing proper and competent counseling and infrastructure support). This would make a huge difference during the student's stay in the community college and for his/her transfer to universities.
3. Not all courses are transferable. It is important to map out the courses carefully to assure transferability to the target universities that the student aspires to transfer to. Identifying suitable universities will also become crucial to ensure that the student can indeed transfer and move on to obtain a degree.

If you like to take advantage of this opportunity to realize your dream of university studies in the US, make an appointment to meet with an iREP counselor to start your road to top-ranked US universities. The first-hour consultation is free.

DISCLAIMER:

This write-up is for general reference only. The contents are subject to changes at any time without prior notice.

6. 完善的优先转至大学的制度

很多情况下，公立学院的学生可以在正式录取开始的前一年11月提前被合作的大学录取。事实上，很多大学对平均分在2.0到3.2之间或以上的公立学院学生提供保送资格。具体分数要求依专业而定。

7. 更容易取得高分

在公立学院学习的学生往往更容易取得高分。3.5以上的平均分并非难事。

8. 同步完成美国高中(可节省一年时间)

对于未完成高中学业的学生，一些公立学院允许他们在修读大学转学分课程的同时完成高中课程，而不需要花费额外的时间。也就是说，学生完成高二学业后便可直接入读公立学院修读大学转学分课程，完成两年课程后转至大学继续修读两年并取得学位。

另一方面，学生需要知道如何选择适合自己的公立学院，以及如何应对以下问题。否则选择公立学院的劣势将可能变成劣势。

1. 美国公立学院众多，仅加州就有112所，华盛顿州也有37所。并不是所有公立学院都具备接收国际学生的条件的。因此，选择对的公立学院至关重要。
2. 公立学院主要为当地学生提供教育服务。只有某些公立学院真正具备接收国际学生的条件，可以为国际学生提供适当的咨询以及配套基础设施。这对学生在公立学院修读和日后转入大学有极大影响。
3. 并不是所有课程的学分都可以转至大学的。因此学生应该详细地安排所修课程，以确保学分可以转至理想大学。选择合适的大学同样至关重要。只有选对了大学才能确保学生在读完公立学院后顺利入读大学并取得学位。



咨询热线: 604-889-3182

电邮: registrations@irepeducation.com

网页: www.irepeducation.com

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