

Next-Generation High School Transcripts: Designing for Impact and Clarity in College Admissions:

**How Clear Transcripts Can Make a Difference when applying
to a university abroad**

Reggie Aguiar | Dan Kopperud | Robert Crane | Israel Cevallos | John Stewart



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The Americas 2025**

University Admissions Panel



Bard

Robert Crane

RIT

Rochester
Institute of
Technology

Dan Kopperud

R
RUTGERS

Israel Cevallos

ST. THOMAS



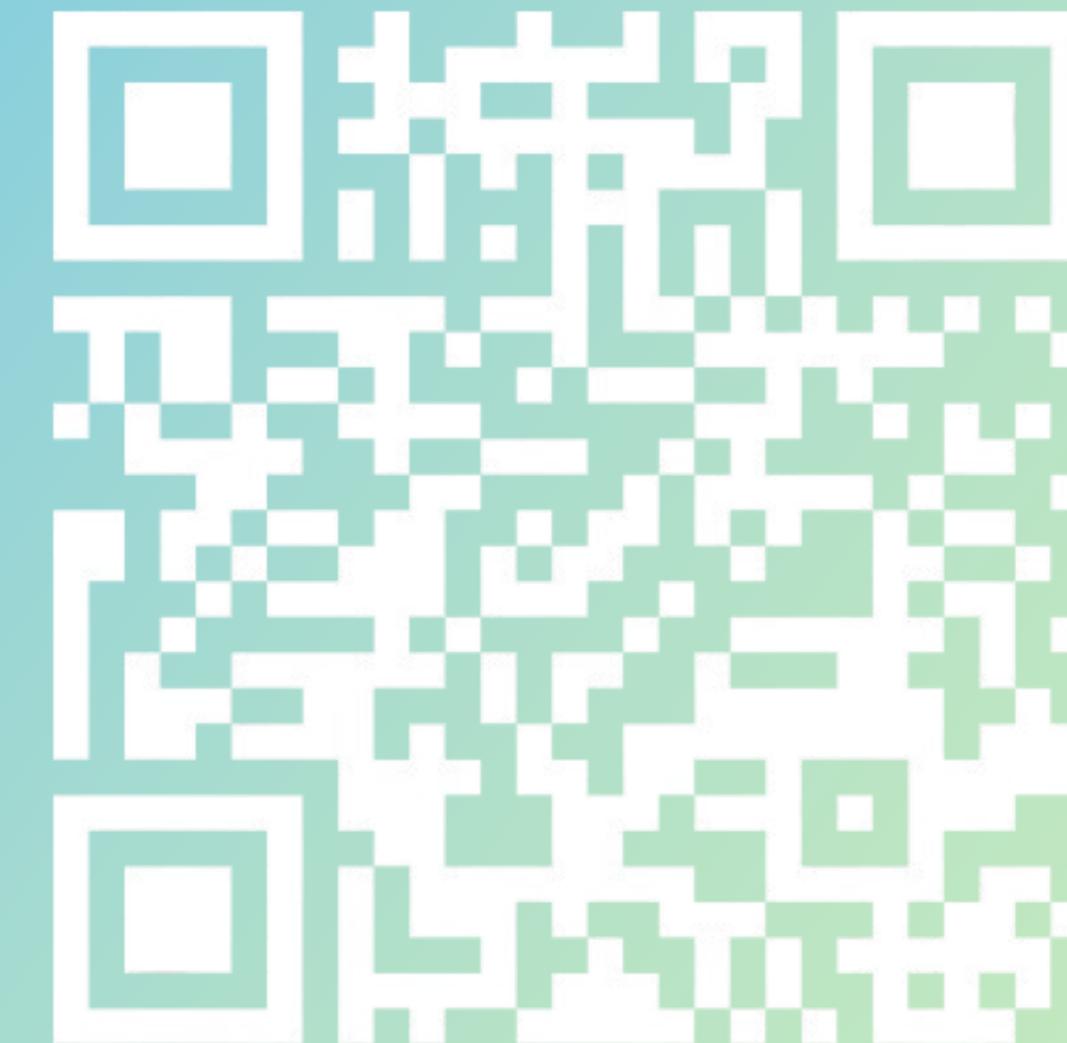
John Stewart



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What Do Universities Want to See When They Review Transcripts?

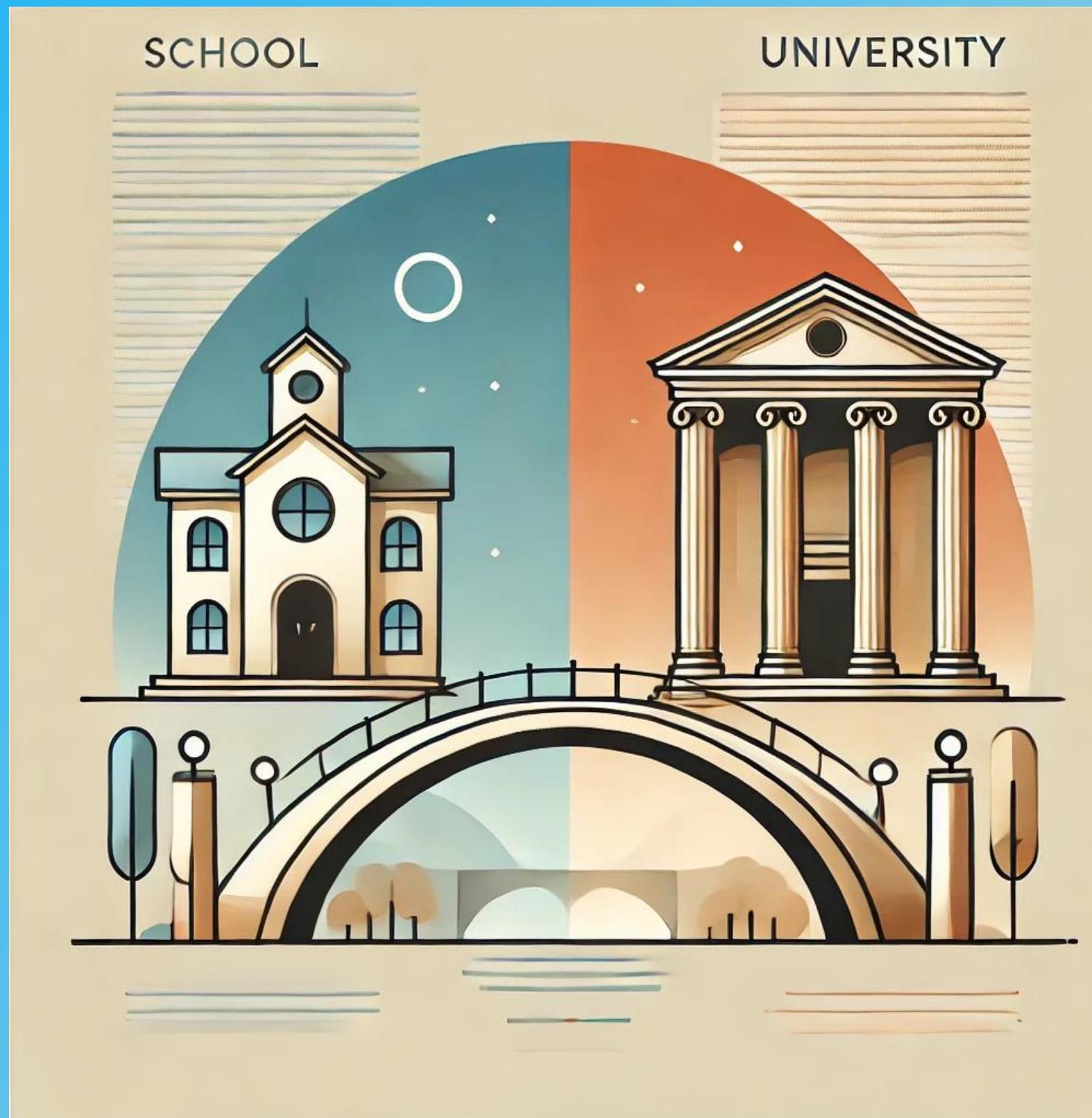
Start
here



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Rethinking the Transcript Together!

“Our transcripts reflect a rich learning journey—but they don’t always translate clearly in admissions.”



What I've done:

- Built a detailed survey with the help of Universities
- Shared this survey with University Contacts

What we're doing today:

- Comparing perspectives: what counselors know vs. what admissions officers say.
- Exploring how to better design transcripts to reflect our students' learning—and make that learning visible to readers across systems.



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Differences in University Admissions Criteria



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Liberal Arts
College

RIT

Rochester
Institute of
Technology

Selective STEM
University

R

RUTGERS

Highly Selective
University

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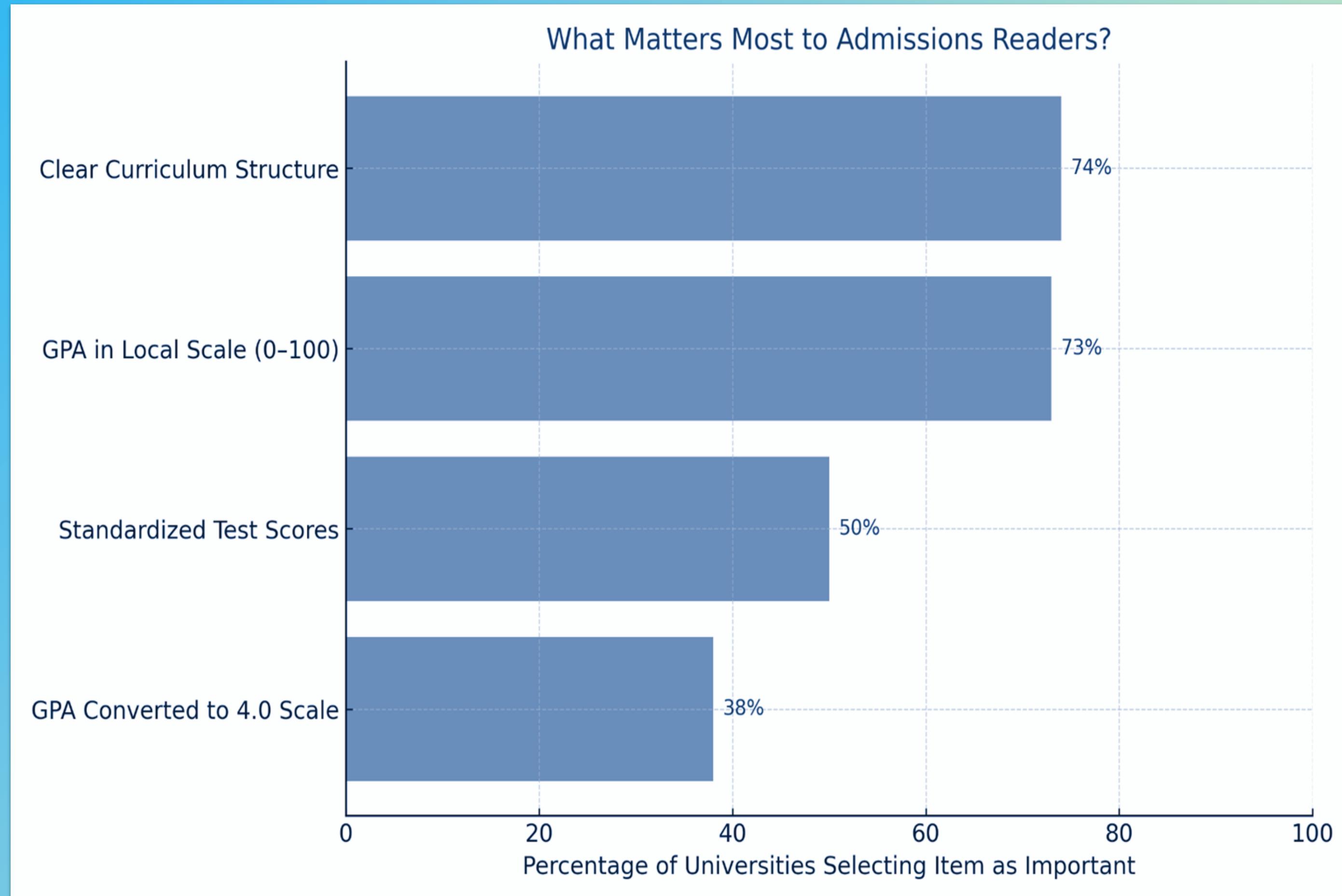


Comprehensive
University

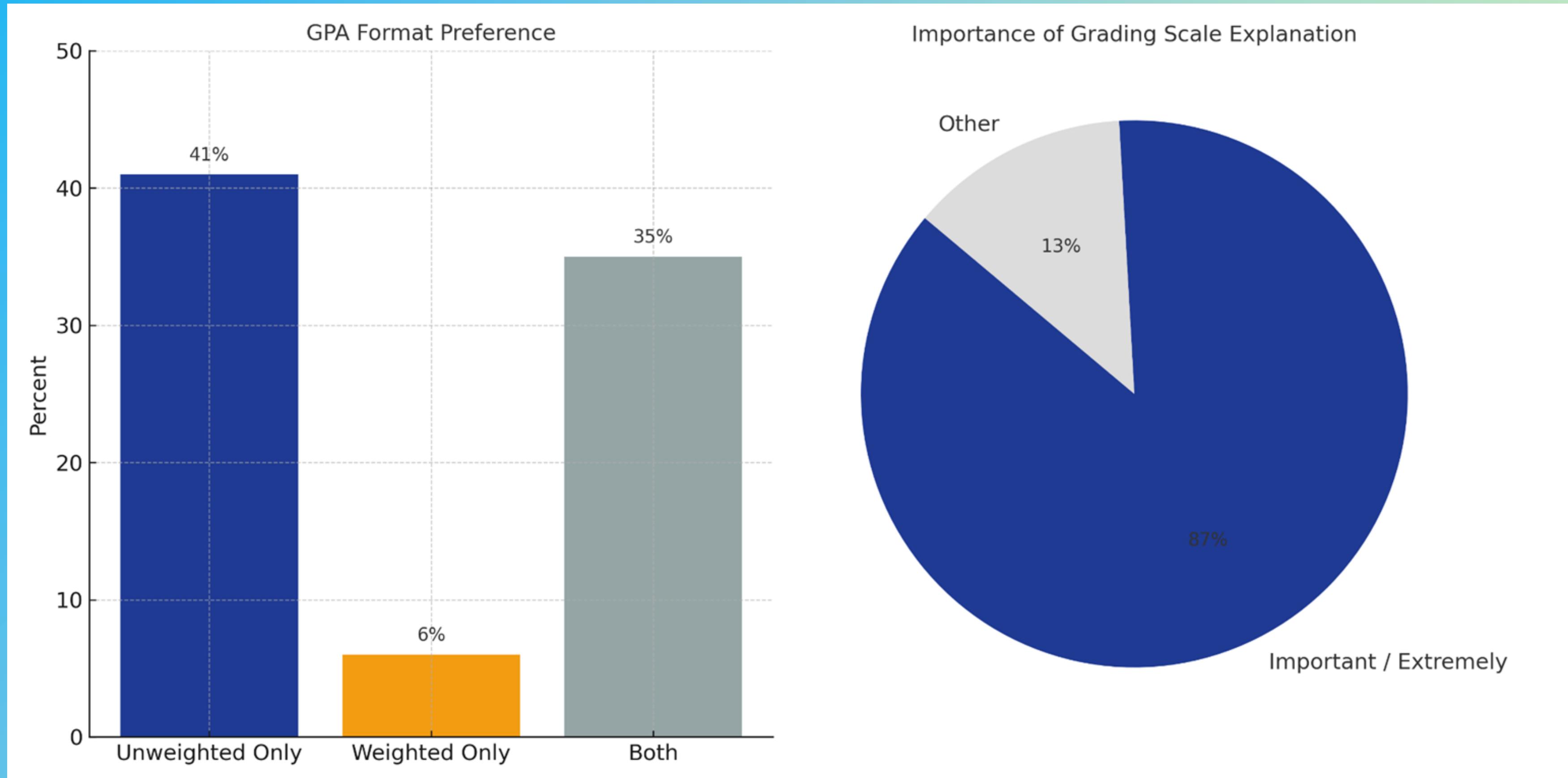


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What Matters Most to Admissions Readers?



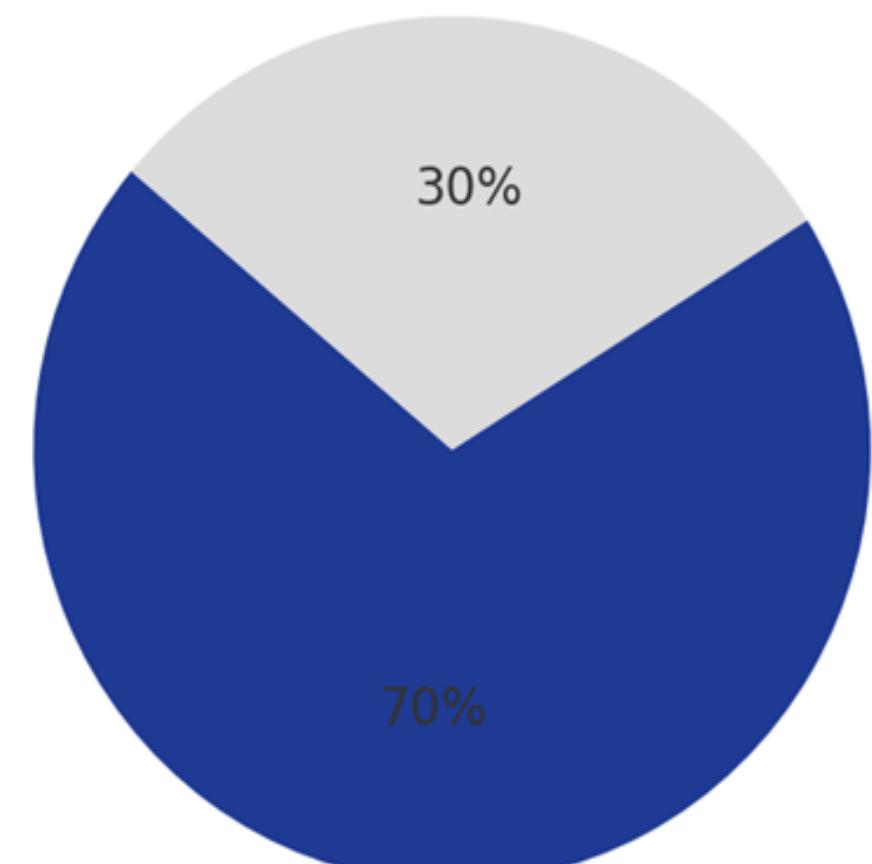
Presenting Grades & GPA



Rigor vs. Detail – Finding the Balance

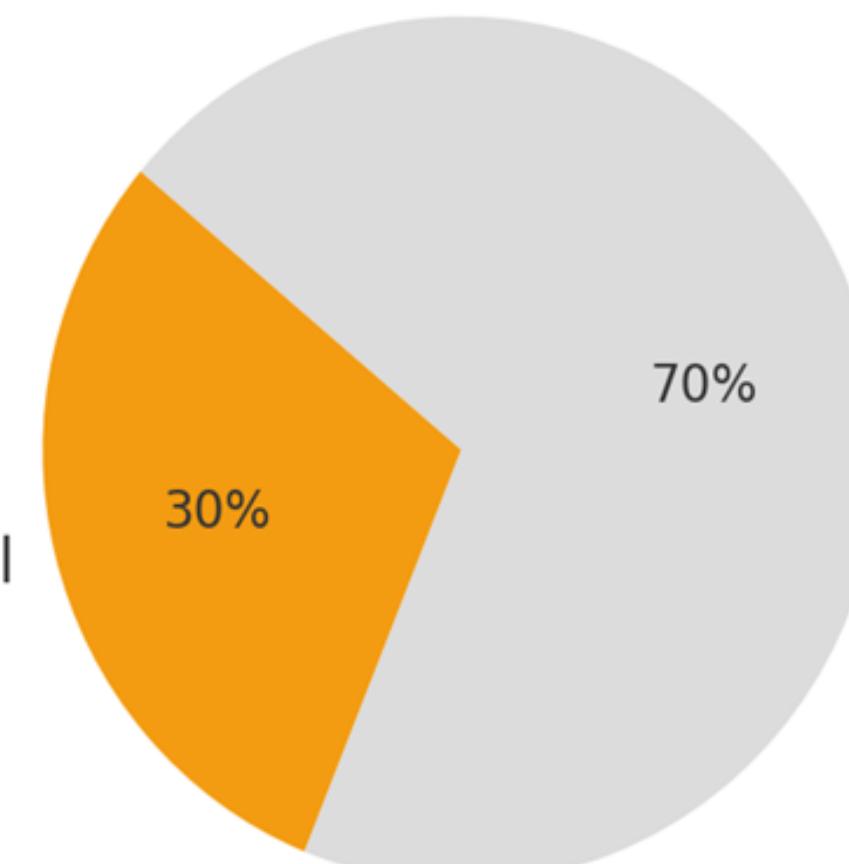
Value of Course Descriptions

Neutral / Not Important



Value of Contact Hours

Helpful / Very Helpful

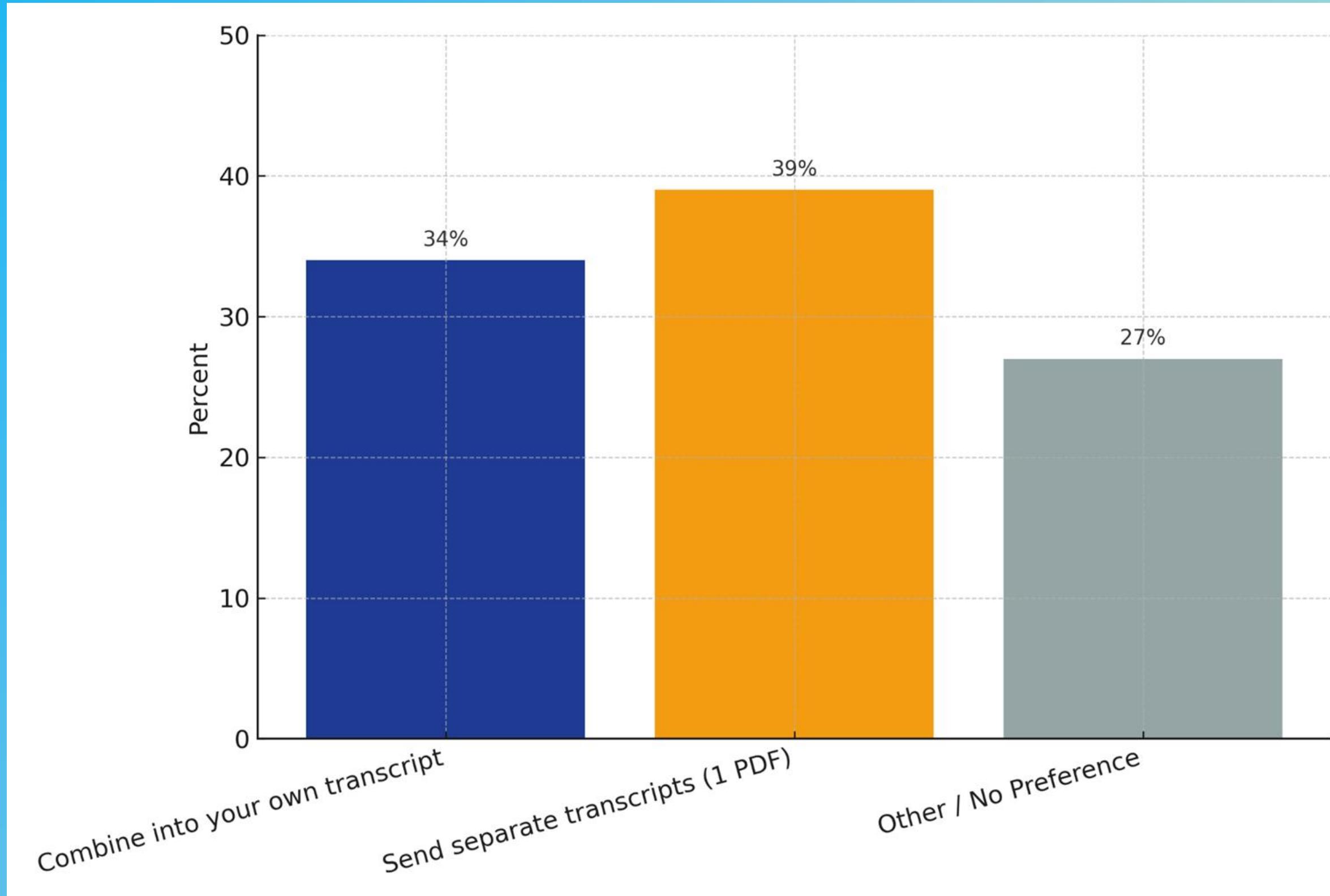


Helpful / Very Helpful



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Reporting External/Transfer Grades



What Does the “Ideal” Transcript Look Like?

School Counselors Say:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.

Universities Say:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.



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Rutgers

1. Clear Grading Scale
- Explanation
2. GPA in Local Scale (0–100)
3. GPA Conversion to 4.0
- Scale
4. Course Descriptions
5. Course Rigor Labels (Honors/AP/Advanced)
6. Curriculum Structure (Core/Electives)
7. Rank in Class
8. Standardized Test Scores (SAT, AP, TOEFL)
9. Extracurricular Activities/Awards
10. Graphical Elements (e.g., GPA Distribution Charts)

RIT

1. GPA in Local Scale (0–100)
2. Clear Grading Scale
- Explanation
3. Rank in Class
4. Standardized Test Scores (SAT, AP, TOEFL)
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Bard

1. GPA in Local Scale (0–100)
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- Explanation
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6. GPA Conversion to 4.0
- Scale
7. Course Descriptions
8. Curriculum Structure (Core/Electives)
9. Rank in Class
10. Graphical Elements (e.g., GPA Distribution Charts)

St. Thomas

1. GPA Conversion to 4.0 Scale
2. Course Rigor Labels (Honors/ AP/Advanced)
3. Curriculum Structure (Core/Electives)
4. Extracurriculars
5. Rank in Class
6. Standardized Test Scores (SAT, AP, TOEFL)***
7. Course Descriptions
8. Graphical Elements
9. GPA in Local Scale (0-100)
10. Clear Grading Scale
- Explanation (ONLY relevant if I can't convert it myself)

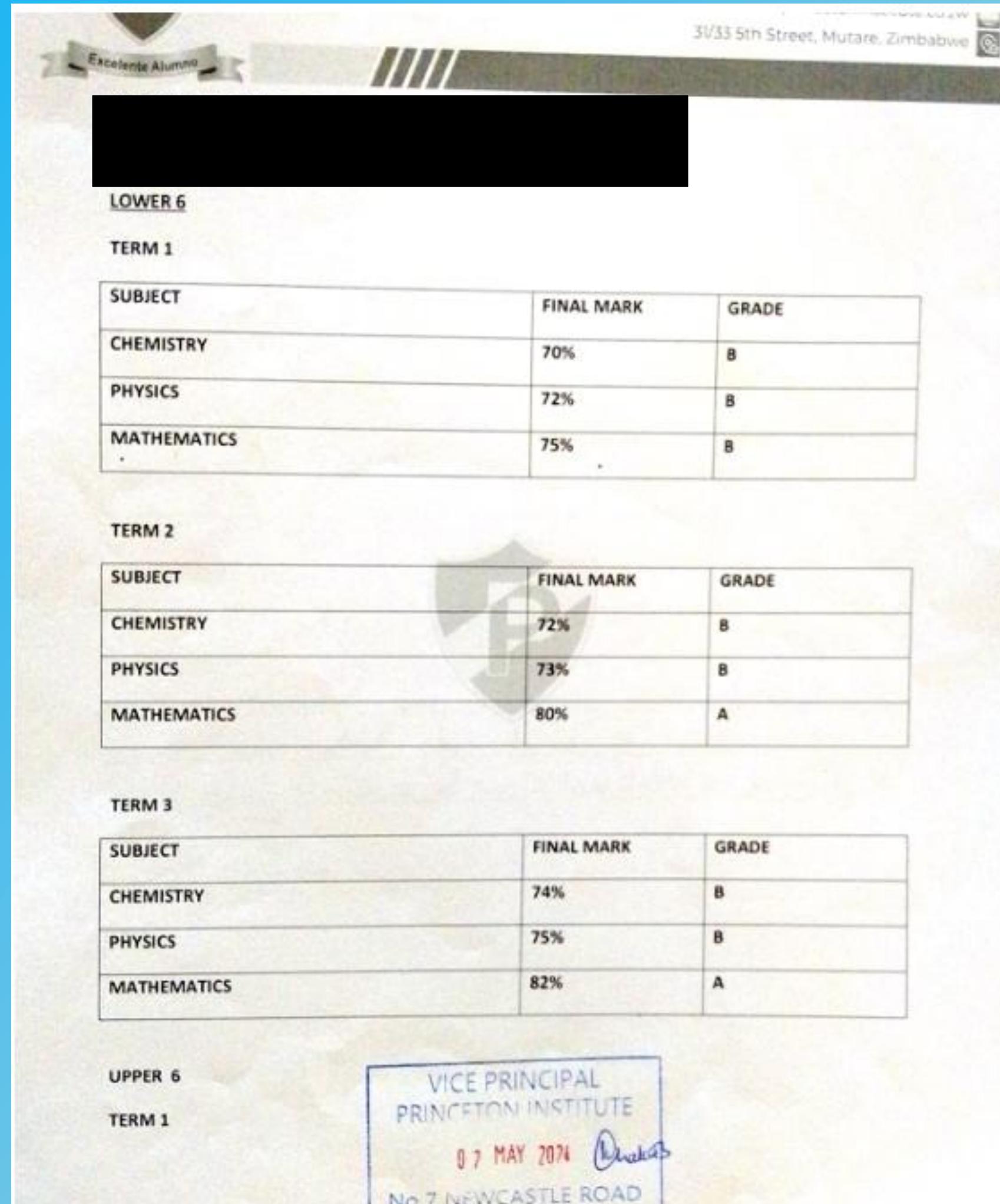


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Direct from the Readers: Insights on Transcripts

- “I love when I know what the highest grade received was as well as the class average.”
- Organizing classes based on subject, so all math, science, humanities, are grouped together. It allows us to see how they are progressing and how their grades are for each subject area.
- Maybe an explanation of what math concepts they cover by the time they graduate would benefit students in their application process when applying to universities that aren't accustomed to the Brazilian national curriculum.
- Any context to help us determine a student's place within the class is very helpful!





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SAI INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
SAI SCHOOL TRANSCRIPT
(Grades 9-12)



Graduation Year :

2025

Date of Admission:

Achievement Grade	Grade 9
School-SAI	Year: 2021-22
Subject/Sub Code	Final Marks(%)
English (184)	90
Hindi (085)	93.7
Mathematics (041)	98.65
Science (086)	88.95
Social Science (087)	93

Achievement Grade	Grade 10	
School-SAI	Year: 2022-23	
Subject/Sub Code	Final Marks(%)	Final Grade
English (184)	92	A1
Hindi (085)	95	A1
Mathematics (041)	95	A1
Science (086)	98	A1
Social Science (087)	97	A1

Achievement Grade	Grade 11
School-SAI	Year: 2023-24
Subject (Code)	Annual (%)
English (301)	88.35
Physics (042)	73.95
Chemistry (043)	86.88
Mathematics (041)	91.9
Painting	97.5

Achievement Grade	Grade 12	
School-SAI	Year: 2024-25	
Subject (Code)	Mid (%)	Predicted (%)
English (301)	90.75	97
Physics (042)	86.25	93
Chemistry (043)	87.94	94
Mathematics (041)	85.28	94
Painting	93	99

Positional Grading is position of the candidates according to grading pattern. The grades have been awarded on a 9-Point scale as under:-

A-1	Top 1/8th of the passed candidates	C-2	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
A-2	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates	D-1	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
B-1	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates	D-2	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates
B-2	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates	E	Failed Candidates
C-1	Next 1/8th of the passed candidates	—	—

For Grades IX to XII

* The school follows the CBSE curriculum which has the assessment criteria for Class IX and Class X based on board exam in the month of March with three periodic tests spread over the academic year. The final report comes as percentage of marks with grades. While in Class XI- XII the absolute marks are awarded from a maximum of 100 in each subject. The final transcript of XI-XII shows the percentage of marks with minimum passing criteria of 33%. Hence students who plan to appear in the board exam of May 2025 will have transcript of Class XII based on percentage.

R.



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Bulletin du 2ème Semestre																																																																													
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Dembia Senior secondary And Preparatory School Student's Transcript

Date of admission 2009

Date of leaving 2010

Last grade attended 10th

Promoted to grade

Detained in grade

Incomplete in grade

His /her behavior



Subject	Grade 9 B Year 2009			Grade 10 B Year 2010			E.C
	1 st sem	2 nd sem	Average	1 st sem	2 nd sem	Average rank	
Afan oromo	73	82	77.5	82	86	84	
Amharic	86	96	91	93	53	73	
English	71	75	73	58	65	64.5	
Mathematics	65	70	67.5	91	51	71	
Physics	86	75	80.5	81	76	78.5	
Biology	95	76	85.5	96	76	86	
Chemistry	70	70	70	93	79	86	
Geography	80	90	85	77	71	74	
History	76	71	73.5	96	90	93	
Civics	85	79	82	94	82	88	
HPE	82	85	83.5	87	85	86	
IT	93	100	96.5	84	97	90.5	
Total	932	969	950.5	1032	911	971.5	
Average	80.16666667	80.75	80.4583	86	75.91666667	80.95833333	
Rank	5	5	5	2	3	2	

This Transcript will not be valid if there is any alter national or erasure
Mr. Mulugeta Kalsi

Record officer's name and sign

Date of issues

Director's name and sign
 Immiruu Abarraa Gurmessa
 ከዳር አበራ ገርመሳሽ
 I.A. Hooggannaas Mana Barugaa
 የትል-ትምህር ተቋማት ስርዓት



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What Would YOUR Ideal Transcript Include?

- What's working in your current transcript?
- What needs to change?
- What would help students shine internationally?



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Closing thoughts:

“What’s holding us back from innovating our transcripts?”

“How can we better align our documents with how students learn—and how universities evaluate?”



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“Every student has a story. A strong transcript ensures that story is not just told—but understood.”

Thank You!



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