



# EducationUSA Cyprus: U.S. Higher Education and the Application Process



A U.S. Department of State Network

# Who are we? What do we do?

- Part of a network of advising centers worldwide supported by the U.S. Department of State Department
- Supported by the U.S. Embassy in Cyprus
- Over 400 centers in 170 countries
- Accurate, Comprehensive, Objective, & Timely Information



# What do we do at EducationUSA Cyprus?

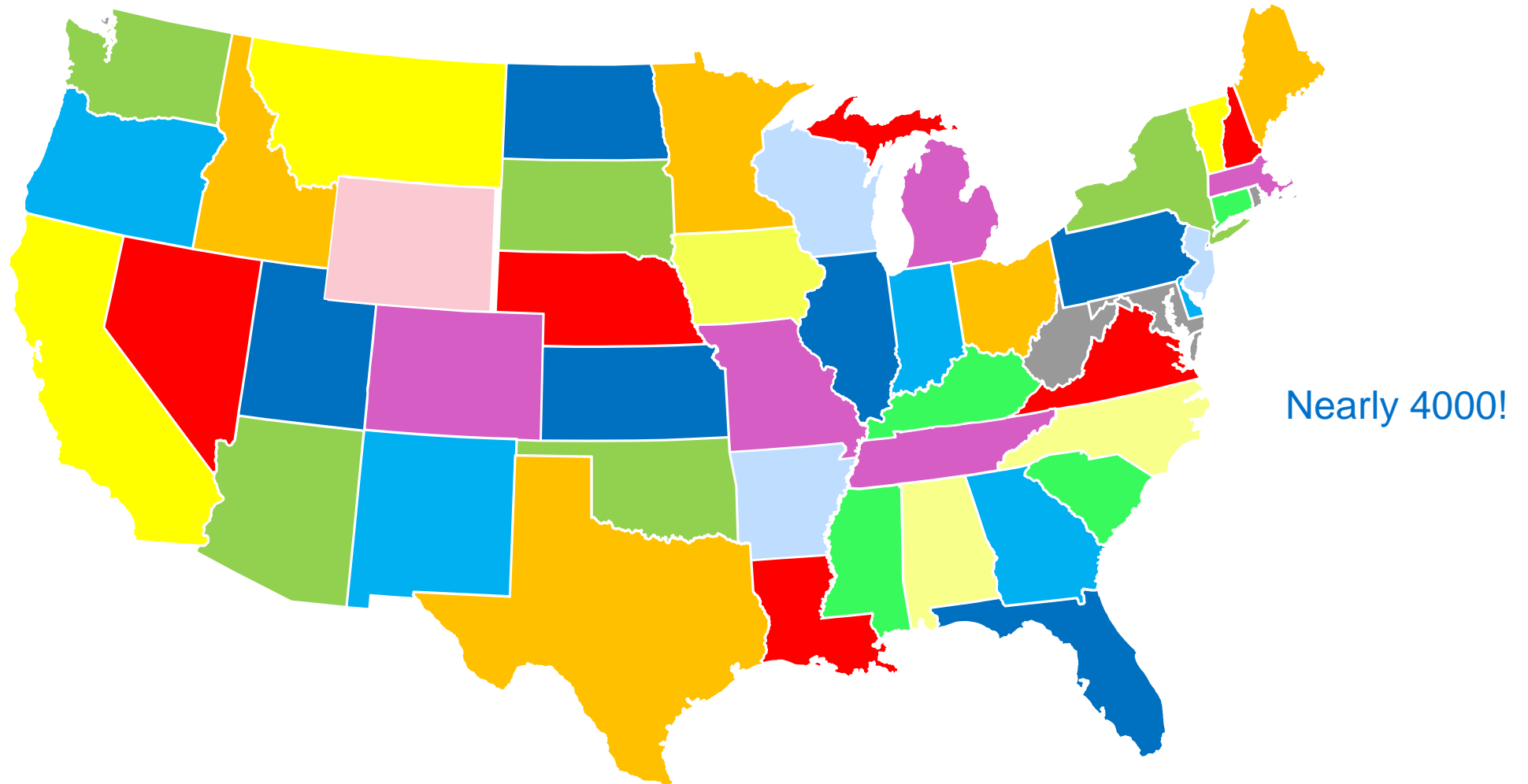
- **Free advising services to students**
  - Information sessions
    - General and specialized topics
  - College Club group advising program
  - Online counselling through booking system (1-to-1 meetings)
  - Pre-departure orientation
- **Free services for counselors**
  - Outreach presentations upon request
  - Fair participation
  - Online consultations through booking system (1-to-1 meetings)

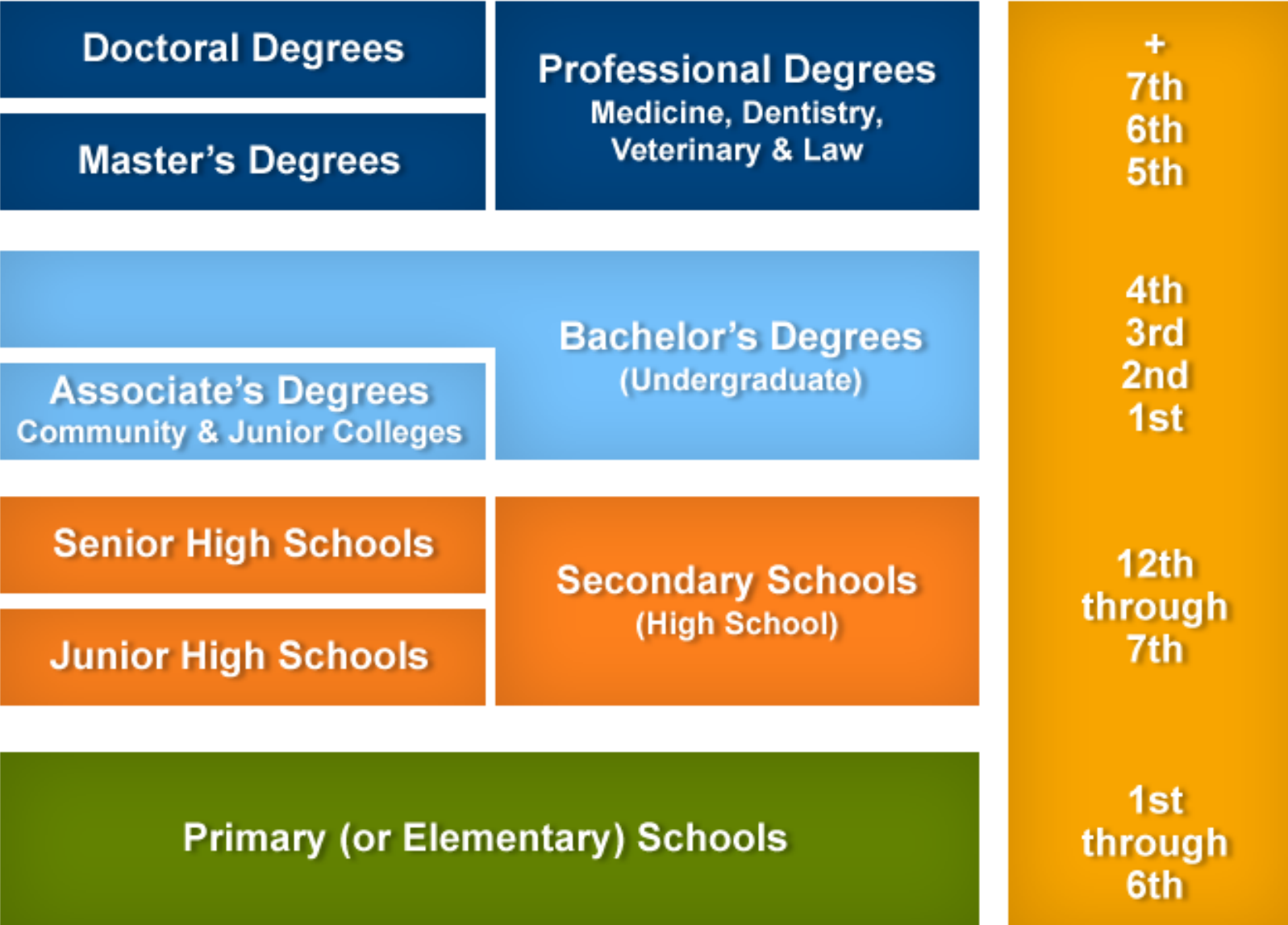


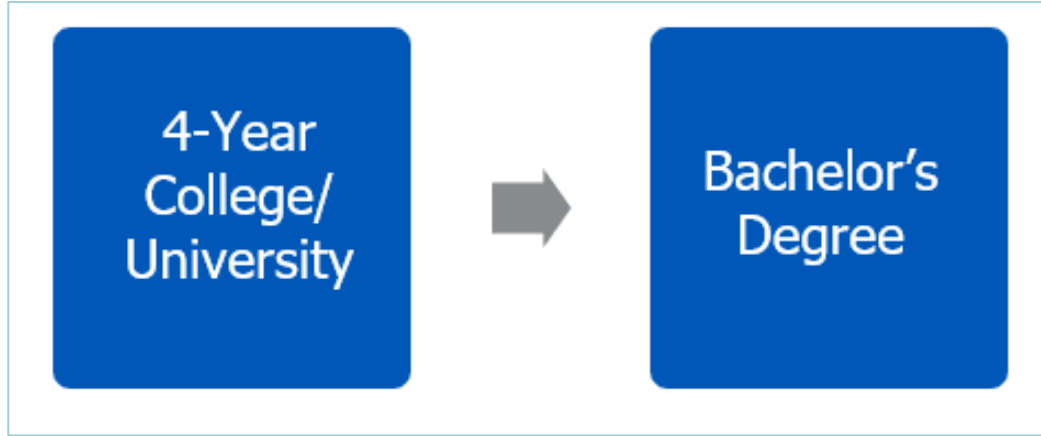
# The Basics of U.S. Higher Education

The background of the slide is a solid dark blue color. On the right side, there is a faint, light blue graphic of a graduation cap (mortarboard) with a tassel hanging from the top. The cap is positioned diagonally, with the top of the cap pointing towards the upper right corner of the slide.

# How Many Higher Education Institutions are there in the U.S. (accredited)?







**Two routes to  
getting your  
bachelor's degree**

**FIRST TWO YEARS**

Study at a community college for two years and graduate with an Associate's Degree

**THIRD AND FOURTH YEARS**

Transfer to a 4-year institution and complete another 2 years

**FOUR YEARS IN TOTAL**

# **The Admissions Process**

## **(Undergraduate)**

**Students will need their counselor's help!**



## Discussion Question:

Which factors are most important for admissions to U.S. higher education?



Academics



Extracurricular



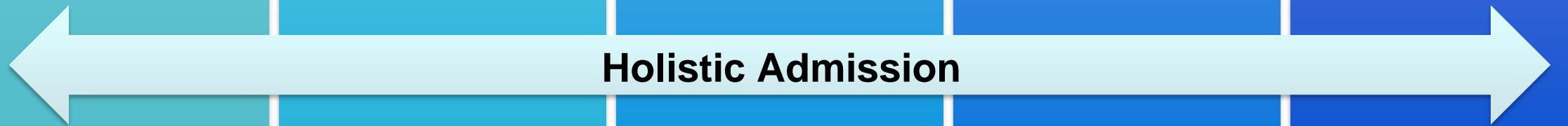
Test Scores



Motivation



Recommendations



**Holistic Admission**

# No magic formula- All about “fit”

Academic  
Profile/Selectivity

Cost and  
Financial Aid

Overall  
Experience



# What is Required in a U.S. University/College Application?

1. Online Application Form
2. Activities List
3. Academic Documents (transcripts)
4. Standardized Test Scores\*\*\*
5. Essays \*\*\*
6. Letters of Recommendation \*\*\*
7. Financial Aid Documents (CSS Profile)
8. Application Fees

Will the student be academically successful?

Will the student be a good fit for the institution?

# Standardized Test Scores



# Standardized Test Scores: English Language Testing Options



**duolingo** english test

**IELTS**<sup>TM</sup>

 **Pearson**

  
**TOEFL**<sup>®</sup>

# The U.S. Application Essay

- **NOT THE SAME AS A PERSONAL STATEMENT FOR THE UK OR EUROPE!**
- Not a repetition of information in the application
- Should reveal student's character, true values, personal insight, interests, long-term goals, strengths...
- One of the most important aspects of your application



# What makes a good recommendation letter?

## A good recommendation letter:

- Shows that the writer knows the student well and is credible
- Highlights the student's qualities
- Gives specific examples to support
- Is NOT a repetition of the application
- For counselors- provides context



# What is Required in a U.S. University/College Application?

1. Application Form
2. Activities List
3. Essays \*\*\*
4. Academic Documents
5. Letters of Recommendation \*\*\*
6. Standardized Test Scores \*\*\*
7. Financial Aid Documents (CSS Profile or others)
8. Application Fees

Will the student be academically successful?

Will the student be a good fit for the institution?

Nov-Dec-Jan.:

Complete & Send Applications-  
Deadlines can be as early as  
Nov. 1!!!

December- early April:

Hear Back from Unis!

May 1

Deadline to commit to one  
university

## Application Deadlines are **Important!!!**

- Regular Decision: (usually around January)
- “Early” Deadlines: (November 1 or 15)
- Financial aid deadlines might be different to admission deadlines



**Counselors & students  
MUST check individual  
college and university  
websites!**

# Useful websites:

<https://educationusa.state.gov/>

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>

<https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/>

<https://fundingusstudy.org/>

## Contact Information

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# Questions?

