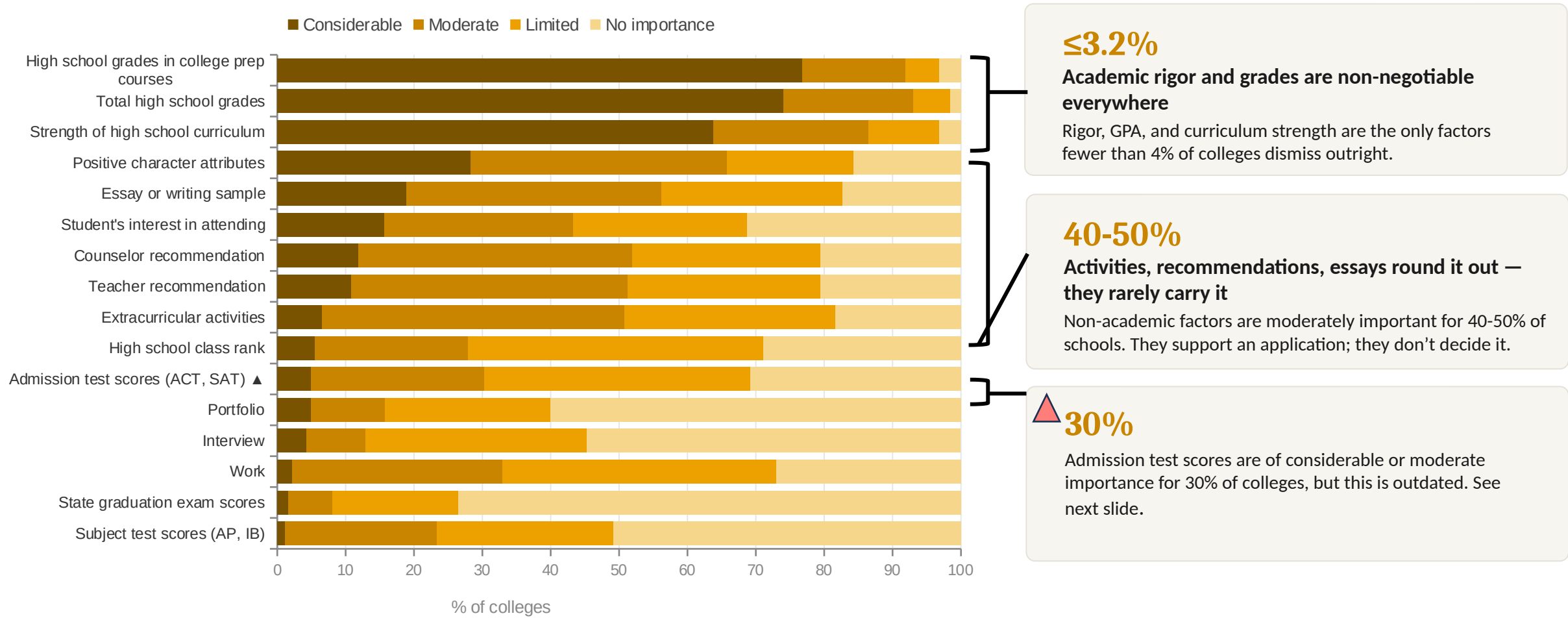


What's Important in Admissions Decisions

Percentage of colleges attributing different levels of importance to factors in admissions decisions: first-time freshmen, Fall 2023



Testing: What’s Changed Since 2023

Testing *policy* nationally has barely moved but the signals are showing that schools are increasingly leaning back into testing.

86%

of colleges nationally remain test-optional for 2026–27 — little changed since 2023

8 of 8

Ivy League schools now require scores, as of June 2026 — up from roughly half in Fall 2023

11%

of US News’ top 100 require scores — a small slice, concentrated at the most selective

THE IVY-PLUS REINSTATEMENT WAVE

Fall 2022 entry

MIT – first to reinstate

Fall 2025 entry

Dartmouth · Brown · Harvard
Yale (test-flexible: SAT/ACT/AP/IB)

Fall 2026 entry

Cornell · Penn
Caltech · Stanford

Fall 2028 entry

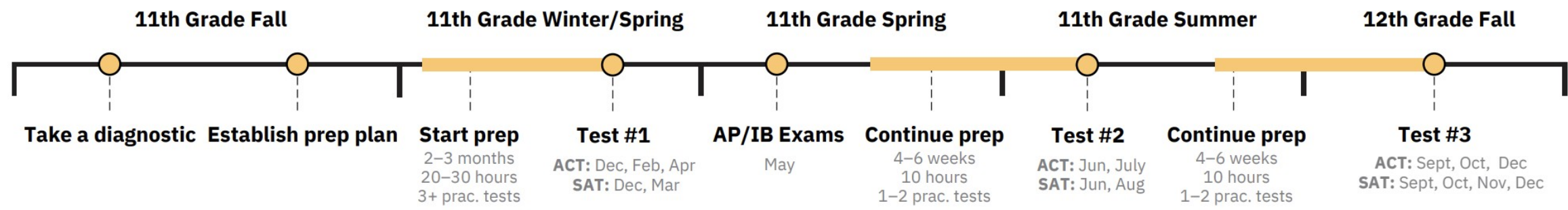
Princeton · Columbia

🕒 **Watching: the University of California** system is reviewing its test-blind policy — decision by June 2027, earliest effect Fall 2028 applicants. This year’s juniors are unaffected.

Recommended Test Prep Timeline

Adapted from ArborBridge

11th Grade Fall Start —AP/IB Student



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11th Grade Fall Start

