



# Higher Education in the USA

4<sup>th</sup> Grade

When you leave school you  
become

**a school-leaver**

You can also say that you

graduated school

or

graduated from school

[ei]

When you 'graduate school  
you become

[\*]

a 'graduate

\* = нейтральный, «шуа»

You have got

**a certificate**

Now you've got to make  
up your mind  
what institution to enter

Who can help you to  
make the right choice?

So, you decide to  
enter some institution



You

**apply for admission**

and become

**an 'applicant**

To apply for admission  
you need the following  
**materials:**

- 1) a completed and signed form of application;
- 2) an official score from the standardized tests;
- 3) official transcripts from school or college you have graduated;
- 4) proof of immunization.

Sometimes students also  
need

5) letters of recommendation;

6) evidence of financial  
resources;

7) personal essay and

8) application fee

A **transcript** is a document maintained by schools which summarize the courses taken and the grades obtained for each student. A copy of the transcript is submitted to college or university when a student applies for admission

So, you are

**enrolled into**

**the list of applicants**

Do you remember what  
exams you had to take  
to enter the university?

Do you want to know  
what exams you'd have  
to take and to pass in  
the USA?



First of all,

**TOEFL**

= Test of English as a  
Foreign Language

Only foreign  
students whose  
native language is  
not English have to  
pass TOEFL.

Then, you also have  
to take

**ACT** = American  
College Testing  
Program

ACT is supposed to  
measure how well  
students have  
learned the core  
subjects

**SAT** = Scholastic  
Aptitude Test

# SAT Reasoning Test

assesses how well  
students analyze and  
solve problems

**SAT Subject Test** is a  
multiple-choice test,  
measures student  
knowledge of  
particular subjects

Sometimes GRE or  
GMAT are required



**GRE Test** = Graduate  
Record Examination

is required for  
students to enroll in  
master's or doctoral  
programs

**GMAT** = Graduate  
Management Admission  
Test

is designed for business  
schools

# The System of Grades

(a grade AE =  
a mark BE)

If it is a Pass/Fail test  
you will get P (Pass)  
or F (Fail)

Grades consist of  
letters:

A = Excellent

B = Good

C = Satisfactory

D = Poor

E (or F) = Failure

There are also

W = a mark to indicate  
withdrawal from the  
course;

I = a mark given when  
the course cannot be  
completed for unusual  
reasons acceptable to  
the instructor

IP = a mark for  
specifically  
designated courses  
which cannot be  
completed within one  
semester



Z = a mark given to indicate that a student has received graduate credit but has been assigned no quality grade (later on Z may be assigned as F)

If you attend all lectures  
and seminars and fulfill  
all the assignments you  
can get  
a continuous  
assessment  
(= «автомат»)

# The Academic Calendar

The academic year begins  
in August or September  
and lasts till May or June.

In some Universities there  
also summer semesters.

As a rule, they are  
optional.

# The System of the Higher Education in the USA

UNIVERSITY

2 years

(Master's  
Degree)

COLLEGE

4 years

Bachelor's  
Degree

+

4 years

(Bachelor's  
Degree)

You can transform

UNIVERSITY

2 years

(Master's Degree)

COLLEGE

4 years

Bachelor's Degree

+

4 years

(Bachelor's Degree)

There are 2  
levels of  
higher  
education in  
the USA

# UNIVERSITY

Graduate

2 years (Master's  
Degree)

Undergraduate +

## COLLEGE

4 years

Bachelor's  
Degree

4 years

(Bachelor's  
Degree)



You can continue your study and get a PhD Degree (Doctor of Philosophy). It usually requires 3 more years of study and a lengthy dissertation

For that you'll also have  
to pass a qualifying  
exam

When you are in the 1<sup>st</sup>  
grade you are  
**a freshman**

When you are in the 2<sup>nd</sup>  
grade you are  
**a sophomore**

When you are in the 1<sup>st</sup>,  
2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>d</sup>, and 4<sup>th</sup> grade you  
are

**a junior student**

When you are in the 5<sup>th</sup>  
and 6<sup>th</sup> grade you are  
**a senior student**

When you are in the last  
grade and when you  
graduate from the  
university you are  
**a graduate student**

# Master's Degree



**Graduate students in a master's degree program must complete a minimum of 18 hours of formal classroom lecture courses; that is, courses that require regular attendance, study assignments, final examinations, and quality grades**

**A minimum of 30 hours of  
graduate credit is  
required**

**A credit is the result of attending classes:  
lectures or seminars**

**There are thesis and  
non-thesis courses:**

**non-thesis option  
programs are in Art,  
Economics, Education,  
etc.**

**a thesis is required for all  
candidates for the degree  
of Master of Arts and  
Master of Science**

# What is a **minor**?

**Students may take 3 to 12 hours of graduate-level courses related to one or more of their fields outside the department.**

**There are**

**full-time students**  
**part-time students**  
**night students**



# Fees

**There are several  
ways to pay for the  
education:**

**Grant** – an amount of money you get if you apply for financial aid; needn't be repaid

**Loan** – is to be  
repaid after study

**Part work** – the  
student has to work  
on the campus

**Campus** – the territory  
of the university and  
the premises

**More over you also  
have to pay housing  
fees**

# Exams



You  
take exams and  
pass them or  
fail in them

**A teacher  
gives exams**

**You can  
flunk a course  
or a teacher can  
flunk you**

**A teacher**  
**gives grades**  
**and you**  
**get grades**

**Sometimes you  
take exams and  
sometimes –  
Pass/Fail tests**

# Types of tests:

a multiple-choice test;

a quiz;

an essay test;

a paper-pencil test

**If you fail in the  
exam you can  
retake it**

There is always a  
**deadline** – a point in  
time by which the  
exam must be  
**passed**



If you fail to pass  
the exam before the  
deadline you will be  
**expelled** from the  
university

**If you pass all  
exams with 'A's you  
can be called an  
A-student**

**You can also  
graduate with  
straight A**

**Faculty**

**Faculty** consists of  
**chairs** which  
consist of  
**departments:**

# Faculty

```
graph TD; Faculty --> Chair1[chair of...]; Faculty --> Chair2[chair of...]; Chair1 --> Sub1[...]; Chair1 --> Sub2[...]; Chair1 --> Sub3[...]; Chair2 --> Sub4[...]; Chair2 --> Sub5[...]; Chair2 --> Sub6[...]; Sub1 --> Department[... department]; Sub2 --> Department; Sub3 --> Department; Sub4 --> Department; Sub5 --> Department; Sub6 --> Department;
```

chair of...

chair of...

... department

**E.g.,**

**Faculty of foreign languages**

```
graph TD; A[Faculty of foreign languages] --> B[chair of English]; A --> C[chair of grammar]; A --> D[chair of the 2nd foreign language]; D --> E[English department]; D --> F[French department]; D --> G[German department];
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**chair of English**   **chair of grammar**

**chair of the 2<sup>nd</sup> foreign language**

**English department**   **German department**

**French department**

**The faculty =  
the teaching stuff**



**The faculty includes**

**assistant teachers**

**senior lecturers**

**(=readers)**

**associate professors**

**assistant professors**

**full professors**

There are also people on a university staff whose job is to help students in different fields. These are

**a tutor**

and

**a counselor**

**a tutor** is a teacher  
ready to answer all  
students' questions  
connected with their  
study

**a counselor** – a person  
providing counseling and  
consultation service to help  
in decisions regarding  
courses, majors, vocational  
plans, personal matters

**a tutor** is closer to  
Russian «научный  
руководитель»  
while  
**a counselor** - to  
Russian «куратор»