Here are six tips for gaining acceptance into a highly selective university like Binghamton University:

1. **Take the most challenging classes you can handle.** Choose AP, Honors and International Baccalaureate classes or programs. Challenge yourself by taking at least two years of a foreign language or participating in your school's language immersion program. Take electives that support your passions.

2. **Maintain the highest grade-point average possible** beginning with ninth grade. Though your sophomore and junior marks are scrutinized more intently, everything counts from ninth grade on.

3. **Study for the PSAT/SAT and/or PLAN/ACT** by taking practice tests or a prep class. You may want to take a test twice. Submit your best score to the colleges on your list.

4. **Participate in school, community activities and jobs in areas that interest you and that will help you experience potential careers.** If you’re thinking about a career in medicine, volunteer at a hospital or community clinic. If you’re a talented musician, audition for community ensembles and your all-state orchestra.

5. **Get great letters of recommendation.** Ask teachers who know you well and give them plenty of notice so they can get letters in on time. Supply them with your résumé to remind them of your accomplishments.

6. **Write awesome college essays.** Highly selective colleges want to see who you are as a person, so reveal yourself through the essay topic. Show some flair or demonstrate your knowledge of the world. And let the schools on your list know what it means to you to study there. (Hint: Use proofreaders!)

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**The secret to finding AND getting into the best selective university for you**

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**Are you ready to fine-tune your college “wish list”?**

Have you narrowed down your list of top colleges? Now is the time for due diligence! Sift through your stack of brochures, surf the Web and collect ideas and opinions from teachers, high school counselors and family and friends about rigorous schools that might be a good fit for you.

Start with six to 10 schools to investigate in more depth. Choose a mix of “reach” colleges — where you may or may not get accepted — and schools where your credentials match or exceed admission requirements. Personally visit as many of these schools as possible, so you can talk to students and faculty and really experience the campus culture.

**Have you considered Binghamton, a premier public university in the Northeast?**

Binghamton University is a world-class university that will offer you a bold, interdisciplinary education, global experiences and one of the most dynamic research programs in the country. Graduates from Binghamton get accepted to elite graduate schools, accept jobs with Fortune 500 companies, write novels, become social entrepreneurs and much, much more!

**What does your ideal university look like?**

As a high-achieving student, you want more from a college. You want a school where you will have opportunities to engage with faculty one-on-one, develop friendships with people from different backgrounds and explore places that awaken your curiosity.

You want a college where you will be profoundly engaged — intellectually, globally and in the community.
What are Binghamton University's academics like?
If you know what you want to study, chances are it's available at Binghamton. We offer more than 130 academic programs, from Arabic studies and integrative neuroscience to drawing and biophysical chemistry. If you don't find what you want, you can design your own program! Plus there are more than 50 accelerated bachelor's/master's degree options that allow you to finish your undergrad and grad work on the fast track.

What are Binghamton professors like?
Our faculty are not only outstanding classroom teachers but also superstars in their own right. We have a Pulitzer Prize winner, National Book Award winner and numerous Fulbright, Ford and Guggenheim scholars. Others, like psychologist Linda Spear, are pioneering work that proves alcohol's affects on adolescents can create patterns that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. Many provide opportunities for undergraduates to engage in their research projects. We have undergraduates who are publishing in peer-reviewed journals, spending their summers working in laboratories and making contributions to the frontiers of knowledge.

How will you prepare me for success after graduation?
Binghamton's four-year graduation rate is among the highest in the nation when compared to our peer public research universities and 20 percent of students stay on to earn graduate degrees at Binghamton where we offer more than 30 doctoral programs. Plus our graduates who apply to law or medical school get accepted at rates higher than the national average. Each year more than 400 businesses recruit our Binghamton graduates. (We’re the #3 feeder for the Big Four accounting firms.) Our active internship program, too, often leads to great job offers before students even graduate.

What is the campus community like?
Binghamton follows an Oxford Model for its housing, offering six campus communities, each with its own personality and culture. Each campus community has a residence hall or group of residence halls that house students with similar interests. Led by a faculty master, your campus community will immerse you in enriching academic and co-curricular experiences around the clock. You will always find a study group, faculty dinner, alumni network or group of like-minded friends to share ideas with.

How can I get involved?
You work hard but you also want to play hard. From our 21 NCAA Division I varsity teams to our dozens of clubs, performances, lectures and other activities, there is always something enriching to do. At FitSpace, our state-of-the-art fitness center, you’ll find personal trainers and 45 group exercise classes each week. The Outdoor Pursuits program organizes day and weekend kayaking, climbing, hiking and camping trips and our 190-acre on-campus nature preserve is ideal for hiking, jogging or riding bikes. Each weekend Binghamton Late Nite brings great entertainment ranging from new release movies to comedians to campus. You’ll also have the chance to gain skills and learn by getting involved in community service. Each year Binghamton students give approximately 410,000 hours to support efforts such as Habitat for Humanity, Hurricane Sandy relief and the local rescue mission.

Will my parents (and I) be proud that I am attending Binghamton?
Absolutely! We only accept one in 10 students. That puts you in a rarefied group. When you gain acceptance to Binghamton University you have demonstrated to the world that you are no ordinary student. As The Princeton Review said, we “deliver Ivy League academics and a good social experience at a state school price.” For 70 percent of our students, Binghamton is their first-choice university.

Is Binghamton a good value?
Kiplinger's Personal Finance said it best: Binghamton is the “#4 best value in the nation among public colleges.” We offer affordable tuition to both in-state and out-of-state students for an education that ranks with the best available anywhere.

To really know how you’ll fit in at Binghamton, schedule a visit at visit.binghamton.edu. Office of Undergraduate Admissions PO Box 6001 Binghamton, NY 13902-6001 607-777-2171 admissions.binghamton.edu
Here’s a chart to help you compare Binghamton with other colleges **on your list:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Binghamton University</th>
<th>College #2</th>
<th>College #3</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Academic excellence?</td>
<td>An elite student body, with over 30,000 applications for nearly 3,000 spots. You will rub shoulders with the best of the best. Opportunities to conduct research, study across disciplines, intern and acquire a global perspective. A renowned faculty, educated at the world’s finest institutions including Harvard, Yale and MIT, who are passionate researchers and teachers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Location?</td>
<td>Centrally located in Binghamton, N.Y., we’re just three hours from internships and cultural experiences in New York and Philadelphia, and five hours from Boston, Washington, D.C. and Toronto!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Engaged residential life?</td>
<td>Engaging, small, fun, comfortable and creative, our six residential community villages each have a faculty master who supports your academic pursuits, hosts events and connects your living to your learning.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global experience available?</td>
<td>Yes! 600 academic, immersion, internship and service programs to take you all over the world. We also have an international student body from over 100 countries. This global perspective will give you a competitive edge after college.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student life on campus?</td>
<td>Over 250 campus clubs and organizations. Campus Recreation has an 88 percent student participation rate! There’s also a brand-new student recreational facility with intramural sports, club sports and group classes. D1 athletics with 21 division teams. We are the Bearcats and consistently lead the America East conference in fan attendance.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ratio of men to women on campus?</td>
<td>53/47</td>
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<tr>
<td>Where could I go to graduate school?</td>
<td>Anywhere. We have students who go on to Harvard, Columbia, the University of Pennsylvania and more!</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affordability?</td>
<td>The Princeton Review recently put Binghamton at #10 for best value among publics based on academics, cost of attendance and financial aid.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>