The Application Process

Planning ahead: College Apps, Financial Aid, and Scholarships

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A word about Covid-19

Things are constantly evolving so it is important to remain up to date on all things college admissions. How will high school and college closures impact college admissions for the class of 2021? Will a higher percentage of current seniors defer? How will that impact admissions for the fall of 2021? Will test scores remain important, even if schools move to test-optional? If test scores are not submitted or available, what does that mean? I hope this presentation helps to clear some of this up.

THE LIST KNOW Your Options

The college search

I have developed a spreadsheet which should help you to track colleges that you plan on applying to. This spreadsheet provides a place for you to track deadlines and other important information by college. You can also download this presentation from the same link.

https://www.admissionsandaid.com/juniors.html

Creating a College List

- Creating a realistic and comprehensive college list is one of the most difficult aspects of the college application process.
- Each college looks at different characteristics and may weigh individual characteristics differently.
- Even within colleges, different students may fall under different criteria depending on a combination of factors.

SUNY, CUNY, Private, Out of State Public – Know your options!

- SUNY State University of New York In State Public: There are 64 SUNY Schools.
 - Vary between 4 Year University, 4 Year College, 2/4 year
 Technical School, and 2 year Community College.
 - Tuition varies with the 4 Year University being the most expensive at a Cost of Attendance (Tuition, room, board, books, travel, and personal) of \$24,000/ year.
 - Universities are the biggest and offer the most resources.
 - Some Community Colleges offer amazing partner programs with 4 year SUNY Schools.

SUNY: Which Path fits?

- Depending on your interests, qualifications, and financial characteristics, some SUNY Schools may make more sense than others.
- Transferring between SUNY Schools is relatively easy.
- For instance, if I want to go to SUNY Binghamton but my GPA is too low, I may want to attend SUNY Broome first.
- Students enrolled in the Binghamton Advantage Program are eligible to transfer to Binghamton University after one or two years depending on the program. Students following the engineering track must attend SUNY Broome for two years.
- Many SUNY Schools have similar agreements.

CUNY: The City University of New York

- 11 Senior Colleges, each with a rigorous baccalaureate degree program and enriching campus experience.
- 7 Community Colleges provide high-quality associate degree programs that prepare students for senior colleges or entry into professional careers.
- 6 Graduate, Honors and Professional Schools, offering more than 30 doctoral programs and
 - Six CUNY colleges are among the top 10 nationwide in promoting social mobility, moving lower-income students into the middle class and beyond with excellent jobs.
 - CUNY has produced 70 Fulbright scholars, 10 Truman scholars, 7 Marshall Scholars, 7 Rhodes scholars in recent years, and two of the last three Pulitzers for poetry.
 - 8 in 10 CUNY college graduates carry no federal loan debt.

CUNY: Which path fits?

- CUNY is very similar to SUNY in that they are both public and each college operates independently.
- Some CUNY schools like Baruch and Hunter are extremely competitive while others only require a high school diploma.
- With one application you can apply to up to 6 schools.
 The application fee is \$65.

Public Schools

 Cost-conscious students often view state colleges as the least expensive route. In-state tuition and fees at public universities cost more than \$12,000 less compared with out-of-state rates.

Out of State Public

- Every state has their own public colleges. Unfortunately, only students from that state can receive in-state tuition. For example, the University of California Berkeley's tuition is \$42,112 (out-of-state) and \$14,098 (in-state).
- Some out of state public colleges may offer in state tuition to out of state students. It doesn't hurt to ask.

Private Schools

- Private colleges range from open enrollment to extremely competitive.
- Tuition ranges from \$20,000 to \$57,208.
- Room and board can add another \$15,000 to \$20,000.
- Financial Aid and Scholarships vary and often depend on the size of a college's endowment. The bigger the endowment, the more money that is available.
- Sometimes the more expensive colleges end up being the cheapest because they have the most money available for financial aid

For Profit Colleges

- The last type of college are those that operate for profit.
- Usually not a good option as students typically find themselves in significant debt.
- Some for profit colleges are Berkeley and ASA.
- Would not recommend due to amazing public options in New York.

Creating a list: Know thyself

- What is my cumulative GPA?
- What is my SAT Super Score or ACT Composite?
- What activities have I participated in?
- Have I challenged myself academically?
- Have I taken advantage of all of the resources available to me?
- What was my household income for 2019?
- Who is considered a member of my household?
- Who claimed me on the 2019 1040?

Creating a list

- Creating a college list should be deliberate and based on numerous variables.
- Your list should be well rounded and contain safety, fit, and reach schools.
- When considering "fit," it is important to consider academic and financial variables. Not just can I get in, but also can I afford to go there.

Creating a list

- Try and avoid the trap of applying to all of the same colleges as your friends and other students. Some schools place a limit on the number of students that they will accept from a given school or geographic region. Many colleges are looking for geographic diversity. Colleges want a balanced class that is representative of the world.
- Don't let "creating a list" be an obstacle to your college applications.
- Determine if you are willing to apply "Early Decision".

College Visits

There are several ways to visit with a college

- Go directly to the school and take a tour. It is best for the student and family to visit the school independently during an open house. Every college has an open house in the fall.
- Sign up for high school college visits. Admissions counselors are visiting your high school to speak with you.
- College Fairs There are several college fairs that you can attend on your own. They are free and take place locally.
- Accepted Student Days Most SUNY schools will invite accepted students to visit in the Spring. These are usually low or no cost trips from Manhattan on a bus chartered by the college. These are great opportunities.

Covid 19 and college contacts

- Try a virtual tour
- Virtual open houses
- Set up a virtual visit with an admissions counselor
- Contact the admissions reps by email
- Contact the department chair
- The more engaged you are with the college the less chance you will miss important information and updates.

Fly-In and Diversity Programs

Some schools offer programs which will pay for you to visit. They are competitive and require an application, but well worth the effort. Visit https://getmetocollege.org/what-colleges-look-for/2019-fall-diversity-visit-programs

Below are a few links directly to programs:

- https://admissions.barnard.edu/barnard-bound
- https://www.bucknell.edu/journeytobucknell
- https://www.colgate.edu/admission-financial-aid/visit-colgate/open-house
- https://www.dickinson.edu/info/20255/visit/1058/discover_diversity_at_dickinson
- https://apply.emory.edu/core/
- https://www1.lehigh.edu/admissions/undergrad/visit/dap
- http://www.middlebury.edu/admissions/visit/programs
- https://www.du.edu/admission-aid/undergraduate/pioneer-prep
- https://admissions.richmond.edu/visit/
- https://enrollment.rochester.edu/multicultural-visitation-program/
- https://admissions.vassar.edu/vassarview/

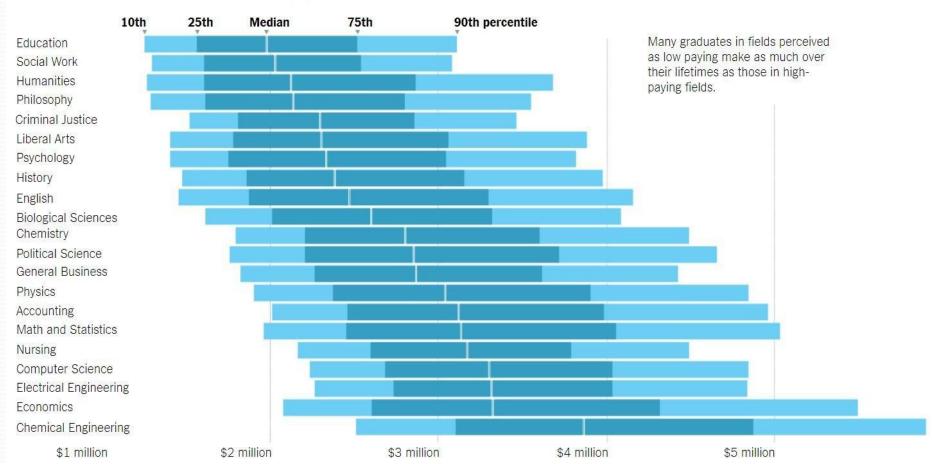
Choosing a major

When considering a major ask these questions:

- Pick a major based on abilities, values, interests, and passions
- Will you still enjoy it years from now?
- Is it employable?
- Will it be around later in life?
- Will it pay?
- Your major matters when you complete an application. For instance, applying into a PA or Nursing program at a school may make it more difficult to get in.
- Choosing a biology major at a college they may take a closer look at your STEM gpa...

Projected Earnings

Projected career earnings for college graduates in the ...



[&]quot;The Lifetime Earnings Premia of Different Majors," 2014 (updated: 2017), by Douglas A. Webber

Most popular majors

Most popular majors at ...

Less selective colleges			More selective colleges			
95	MAJOR	SHARE OF DEGREES		MAJOR	SHARE OF DEGREES	
1	Business, management, marketing and related support services	19.3%	1	Social sciences	19.4%	
2	Health professions and related programs	11.9	2	Biological and biomedical sciences	10.1	
3	Psychology	6.5	3	Engineering	10.1	
4	Social sciences	6.3	4	Business, management, marketing and related support services	9.8	
5	Education	5.7	5	Psychology	6.3	
6	Biological and biomedical sciences	5.5	6	Visual and performing arts	5.6	
7	Engineering	5.2	7	Health professions and related programs	3.8	
8	Communication, journalism and related programs	5.1	8	Computer and information sciences and support services	3.6	
9	Visual and performing arts	4.8	9	Physical sciences	3.6	
10	Homeland security, law enforcement, firefighting and related protective service	3.5	10	English language and literature/letters	3.5	

Take a quiz

- Consider taking a college major assessment test, which helps you decide how to choose a major by asking several dozen questions.
- For tests to see what major is right for you, check out the "What should I major in quiz" by Loyola or the "college major personality quiz" from ThoughtCo.
- You can also visit <u>ONet Online</u>, where you can explore occupations that you may not have considered or even knew existed.

THE LIST Does it Fit?

Will I get in?

With the exception of a small number of colleges, college admissions is a holistic process. Each individual is comprised of a multitude of variables that are considered by the college admissions office at varying levels of importance:

- GPA
- TEST SCORES
- AP, SAT, ACT, REGENTS EXAMS, CUNY ASSESSMENT TEST
- RIGOR OF COURSEWORK/ACADEMIC ENGAGEMENT

Will I get in?

- EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES/DEMONSTRATED COMMUNITY SERVICE
- COLLEGE ESSAY/PERSONAL STATEMENT
- PERSONALITY/CHARACTERISTICS (Leadership, communication skills, self-efficacy, resiliency, social comfort)
- DIVERSITY
- INTERVIEW
- DEMONSTRATED INTEREST/COMMITMENT TO COLLEGE
- INCOME
- INTENDED MAJOR

Will I get in?

Your application must clearly show these traits and characteristics. Use every available opportunity to share these traits with the admissions office.

You can use your essay, email, phone, visit....Whatever it takes

College Navigator

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

- This website is a one stop shop for information on colleges throughout the US. From majors to cost to graduation rates, this is where to find colleges that fit.
- It also includes information from the colleges "Common Data Set" which outlines which factors the college considers during admissions.

Common data set

Look up a school's "common data set" to see what they value in admissions. Is it rigor, tests scores, essay, geography, diversity...try googling a school's name plus "common data set"

How much do Early Decision and Regular Decision rates differ?

Common Data Set Harvard

C7 Relative importance of each of the following academic and nonacademic factors in first-time, first-year, degree-seeking (freshman) admission decisions.

	Very Important	Important	Considered	Not Considered
Academic				
Rigor of secondary school record			Х	
Class rank				Х
Academic GPA			Х	
Standardized test scores			X	
Application Essay			Х	
Recommendation(s)			Х	
Nonacademic				
Interview			X	
Extracurricular activities			Х	
Talent/ability			X	
Character/personal qualities			Х	
First generation			Х	
Alumni/ae relation			X	
Geographical residence			Х	
State residency				X
Religious affiliation/commitment				X
Racial/ethnic status			Х	
Volunteer work			Х	
Work experience			X	
Level of applicant's interest				X

SAT and ACT Policies

C8 Entrance exams

C7 C7 **C7** C7 **C7 C7 C7 C7 C7 C7 C7 C7** C7 **C7 C7** C7 C7 **C7 C7 C7 C7** C7

C8A Does your institution make use of SAT, ACT, or SAT Subject Test scores in admission decisions for first-time, first-year, degree-seeking applicants?

C8A If yes, place check marks in the appropriate boxes below to reflect your institution's policies for use in admission for

Common Data Set Harvard

C9	Percent of first-time, first-year (freshman) students with scores in each range:						
C9		SAT Evidence-					
		Based Reading					
		and Writing	SAT Math				
C9	700-800	84.73%	88.31%				
C9	600-699	14.22%	10.64%				
C9	500-599	1.05%	1.05%				
C9	400-499						
C9	300-399						
C9	200-299						
	Totals should = 100%	100.00%	100.00%				
C9		ACT Composite	ACT English	ACT Math			
C9	30-36	95.34%	95.98%	84.59%			
C9	24-29	4.27%	3.37%	15.03%			
C9	18-23	0.39%	0.65%	0.39%			
C9	12-17						
C9	6-11						
C9	Below 6						
	Totals should = 100%	100.00%	100.00%	100.01%			

C10 Percent of all degree-seeking, first-time, first-year (freshman) students who had high school class rank within each of the following ranges (report information for those students from whom you collected high school rank information).

Common Data Set Fordham

C7 Relative importance of each of the following academic and nonacademic factors in first-time, first-year, degree-seeking (freshman) admission decisions.

C7		Very Important	Important	Considered	Not Considered		
C7	Academic						
C7	Rigor of secondary school record	×					
C7	Class rank			X			
C7	Academic GPA	X					
C7	Standardized test scores	X					
C7	Application Essay		Χ				
C7	Recommendation(s)		Χ				
C7	Nonacademic						
C7	Interview				X		
C7	Extracurricular activities		X				
C7	Talent/ability		X		5 O		
C7	Character/personal qualities		Χ				
C7	First generation			X			
C7	Alumni/ae relation			X			
C7	Geographical residence			X			
C7	State residency				X		
C7	Religious				X		
	affiliation/commitment				^		
C7	Racial/ethnic status			X			
C7	Volunteer work		X				
C7	Work experience			X			
C7	Level of applicant's interest			X			

At a college with holistic admissions, all of the following are most likely important:

• A strong <u>academic record</u> with challenging courses. Your record should show that you're the type of student who takes on a <u>challenge</u> rather than shies away from it. Your GPA tells only part of the story. Have you taken advantage of AP, IB, Honors, and/or dual enrollment courses when they were an option for you?

- Glowing letters of recommendation. What do your teachers and mentors say about you? What do they see as your defining characteristics? Often a teacher can describe your potential in a way that is useful to colleges considering admitting you.
- Interesting extracurricular activities. It doesn't
 matter so much what you do, but that you have a
 passion for something outside of the classroom.

 Depth and leadership in an extracurricular area will
 be more impressive than a smattering of involvement
 in numerous activities.

- A winning application essay. Make sure your essay presents your personality, your sharp mind, and your writing skills. If you are asked to write supplemental essays, make sure they are carefully tailored for the school, <u>not generic</u>.
- <u>Demonstrated interest</u>. Not all schools take this into consideration, but in general, colleges want to admit students who will accept the offer of admission. Campus visits, applying early, and crafting supplemental essays thoughtfully can all play into demonstrated interest.

- A strong college interview. Try to do an interview even if it is optional. The interview is one of the best ways for the college to get to know you as a person.
- There are also a few holistic measures that are not under your control. Most colleges work to enroll a group of students whose diversity will enrich the campus community. "Diversity" here is defined in broad terms: socio-economic background, race, religion, gender identity, nationality, geographic <u>location</u>, and so on. It's not unusual, for example, for a Northeast college to admit a student from Wyoming or Hawaii over an equally qualified student from Massachusetts in an effort to diversify the student body.

Holistic Admissions

 <u>Legacy status</u> can also play a role in the admissions process, and you clearly have no control over whether or not your parents or a sibling attended a school to which you are applying.

Holistic Admissions - A final word

• Keep in mind that even with holistic admissions, colleges will admit just those students who they think will succeed academically. Your grades in college preparatory classes will be the most important piece of your application at nearly every college. No extracurricular activities or essay will make up for an academic record that fails to show that you are prepared for college-level work. The SAT and ACT are typically a bit less important than your academic record, but there also it will be hard to gain admission to the country's top colleges if your scores are significantly below the norm.

Covid-19 and Holistic Admissions

In short, the underlying attributes that internships or programs reveal about a candidate (passion/expertise in a field, commitment to a community, leadership experience) are really what readers are looking for anyway, and those attributes are as relevant as ever. The challenge now is how to express them, and that's the opportunity in this adversity. Students can act on this opportunity to demonstrate creativity, ingenuity, and <u>leadership</u> by finding new ways to express their interests, and even by taking time this summer to do more exploring of themselves and their interests.

How do you stand out

- What do you love to do?
- What have you done to learn more about or experience that?
- How have you spent your free time?
- Have you volunteered or done community service?
- www.Idealist.org to find volunteer opportunities.
- Consider an online summer program <u>https://www.summerdiscovery.com/online-courses</u>

Testing Options SAT vs ACT

The SAT (under normal circumstances)

- You should take at least two SAT/ACT tests.
- You can take as many as you like (two are covered by fee waiver if you qualify).
- Research shows that after 3 tests the score typically peaks. Remember many schools require all scores.
- Don't wait too long, it is best if you take the test by November of senior year.
- If you are applying to very competitive schools, check to see if you need to take the SAT II, subject tests.
- For a complete list Visit
 http://www.compassprep.com/subject-test-requireme
 nts-and-recommendations/.

SAT School Day!

Given the current circumstances and uncertainty surrounding Covid 19, I would highly recommend that you sign up for the SAT school day test. This will ensure that you secure a seat for the fall.

The SAT

- If you have to take subject tests, you will most likely take 2-3. It is best to take one math, one science, and one history or Literature. Some schools may specify requirements depending on major.
- To register for both the SAT and subject tests visit www.collegeboard.com
- I would recommend taking the writing section at least once.

Sending Scores: Method 1

 When you register for the SAT and for nine days after you take the test, you can <u>send four free score reports</u> to colleges and scholarship programs. However, note that you'd be doing this without first seeing your scores.

Pros: These four score reports are free.

 Cons: You won't know your scores before they get sent out. This means you won't be able to use SAT Score Choice to pick which scores colleges see and which they don't see. Essentially, your scores will be sent out even if they aren't as strong as you'd like them to be.

• Given that most colleges will superscore, this is not a big deal since they will take the highest scores from all of

your tests.

Sending Scores: Method 2

- You can also order SAT score reports through your College Board account anytime after you get your scores. In your account, you can see all of your SAT test dates and scores and choose which ones to send out.
- After you use your first four free sends, it costs \$12 to send a score report to a college, and each report can include a number of test scores on it. In other words, if you want to send three SAT scores to the University of Vermont and two to the University of Hawaii, you'd pay \$24. (Students eligible for a fee waiver have unlimited free score reports.) Note that rush reports cost more: \$31.

Which scores?

- Some of are the opinion that you should send scores with your <u>best section results</u> to <u>colleges that superscore</u> the SAT. These schools make a new composite score using your best Math, Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW), and Essay scores from any SATs you took.
- Send your <u>single highest score</u> to colleges that <u>neither</u> <u>superscore nor require all your scores.</u> For instance Penn State looks at your highest composite.
- Many schools <u>require that you send all scores</u> so make sure that you check their website first.
- I usually recommend just sending all your scores.

Preparing for the SAT

- You took the PSAT in October so you now have a valuable tool to study.
- Make sure that you can view your scores in your College Board account.
- While logged into your account open a new tab and navigate to <u>Khan Academy</u>
- Create an account and select SAT prep. You will be asked to link your College Board account with Khan Academy.
- Khan Academy will create a free individualized study plan complete with practice tests and questions!!

ACT vs SAT

- In general it makes sense to put all of your time and resources into the test that you're going to do better on percentile-wise.
- Take practice tests for both to determine
- Consider taking both the SAT and the ACT and then focusing on whichever test gives you the advantage.
- Taking the PSAT gives you an advantage on the SAT since its primary purpose is to prepare you for the exam. It is a risk-free opportunity to take the SAT.
- Students with a strong English background "may flourish on the ACT, which puts more emphasis on verbal skills, while for students who are strong in math, the SAT may reflect that much better.

SAT to ACT Conversion

1600-1570	36	1220-1200	25	910-880	16	
1560-1530	35	1190-1160	24	870-830	15	
1520-1490	34	1150-1130	23	820-780	14	
1480-1450	33	1120-1100	22	770-730	13	
1440-1420	32	1090-1060	21	720-690	12	
1410-1390	31	1050-1030	20	680-650	11	
1380-1360	30	1020-990	19	640-620	10	
1350-1330	29	980-960	18	610-590	9	
1320-1300	28	950-920	17			
1290-1260	27					
1250-1230	26					

New to ACT (September 2020)

Section Retesting, Superscoring, and Faster Results

- For the first time in the ACT's history, students who have taken the test once will be given the option of retaking any one of the individual section tests (English, math, reading, science, and/or writing) rather than having to take the entire test again.
- Also for the first time, students will be able to take the test online during national test days at ACT test centers.
- For students who have taken the test more than once or who retake individual sections of it, ACT will permit them to combine their best scores on the subtests across all administrations, rather than the scores from just one sitting.

ACT and Covid 19

ACT will offer its June and July national test dates as scheduled and will additionally provide makeup test dates for June and July. The makeup test date for the June 13 national test date will be June 20, and the makeup test date for the July 18 test date will be July 25. ACT will work with individual national test centers should they need to reschedule to the makeup test date and students will be notified in advance. Students may also make free test date changes from the June to the July national test date.

ACT and Covid 19

In addition to the three previously planned fall test dates on September 12, October 24 and December 12, ACT will also offer a remote proctoring option for the ACT test in late fall/early winter 2020, allowing students to take the test at their home on a computer. ACT will launch the test-at-home option as part of its national testing program. The fee waivers ACT provides to students from low-income homes will apply to the at-home testing option, and ACT is considering other ways to address access and equity issues.

Covid 19 and SAT

- If it's safe from a public health standpoint, weekend SAT administrations will return every month through the end of the calendar year, beginning in August. This includes a new administration on September 26 and the previously scheduled tests on August 29, October 3, November 7, and December 5.
- Students can register for these administrations starting in May. Students will be contacted directly during the week of May 26 to provide an exact date. Eligible students can register with a fee waiver.

Covid 19 and SAT/ACT

- For each administration, they are preparing to significantly expand capacity for students to take the SAT once schools reopen. They are calling on member schools and colleges, as well as local communities, to provide additional test center capacity so every student who wants to take the SAT can do so.
- Students can get early access to register for August,
 September, and October if they're:
 - Already registered for June
 - In the high school class of 2021 and don't have SAT scores

Covid 19 and SAT/ACT

In the unlikely event that schools do not reopen this fall, College Board will provide a digital SAT for home use, like how they are delivering digital exams to 3 million AP students this spring.

Test Optional Schools

In response to the Coronavirus, many schools have moved to a temporary or permanent Test-Optional policy. This means that test scores will not be REQUIRED for admission, but will still be reviewed if submitted. The school will treat standardized test scores as additive to the student's profile rather than required. If you choose NOT to submit test scores, the college will shift to a more critical review of everything else. Most colleges would prefer that you submit test scores. If two students with the same gpa apply to the same college and one submits better than average test scores, that student will end up with an advantage. For a list of test-optional schools visit

https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional.

Test Optional

- Applicants trying to decide whether to submit scores can think about how they'll add to the overall context. If scores support their "academic story," then it's a good idea to include them. If it detracts from the story, consider withholding them. Only 10-30% of applicants withhold test scores.
- If a college is test-optional, students might be better off submitting test scores, as long as they are not very low. Since the school is test optional, these scores shouldn't count against the applicant and in many cases will help improve their application. If test scores are included, it lessens the weight of the other parts of the application, making it more balanced overall.
- If an applicant does score lower on their test than they hoped, test-optional colleges give them a chance to demonstrate their strengths in other areas without the negative light cast by a low standardized test score.



THE APPLICATION PROCESS EXPLORED

Step One: EOP/HEOP/SEEK or regular admission

- The first question to ask is which direction will the application go?
- This is the single most important designation to make.
- The earlier you can determine this, the easier the process will be moving forward.
- These programs offer significant advantages including additional financial aid and lower admission requirements.

EOP/HEOP/SEEK Continued

- EOP is a special program that is based on a combination of household income, household size, and GPA/SAT scores.
- The Financial criteria is the same at all schools, while the academic requirements depend on the institution.
- For instance, SUNY Albany's academic EOP requirements differ significantly from Columbia's HEOP.

EOP

- The Educational Opportunity Program is only at SUNY Schools.
- Each SUNY has their own academic criteria.
- For instance, a student may qualify academically at one school, but not at another.
- Each school has a different method for verifying Financial Eligibility, some different than others.
- Most schools now use the same electronic EOP form Completed online and sent to all relevant schools.

HEOP

- This is very similar to EOP except that it is offered at select New York State Private Colleges like Fordham, NYU, Columbia, Barnard, Cornell, Hamilton, Colgate, and Saint Thomas Aquinas College.
- Every college has the same financial criteria, but different academic criteria.
- Each college has different means of verifying household income. It is a very difficult and time consuming process.
- The financial packages will vary but are typically meet full need

SEEK

- Seek is very similar to EOP and HEOP except it is offered at CUNY schools.
- Academic requirements differ depending on the CUNY.
- Many students will not only receive enough grant money to pay the entire tuition, but will also receive a refund of up to \$3,000.

Economic Guidelines

Household Size					
(including head of household)					

6

Total Annual Income 2019

1	\$23,107
2	\$31,284

Be prepared

- EOP/HEOP/SEEK is a very competitive program with few spots at each school. The quicker you can submit documents to all schools, the more likely you are to get accepted into the program.
- This process can take months and be extremely frustrating.

CUNY ASAP

You may be eligible for ASAP if you answer YES to the following questions:

- Have you applied and been accepted to a CUNY college that offers ASAP?
- Are you eligible for New York City resident tuition (at the community colleges) or New York State resident tuition (at all other colleges)? (as per the CUNY tuition and fees manual)
- Do you agree to enter into a full-time associate degree program in an ASAP-approved major?
- Are you fully skills proficient or have no more than two outstanding developmental course needs in reading, writing, and math based on CUNY Assessment Test scores?*
- Have you completed the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and the New York State Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) application?**

CUNY ASAP Cont...

- CUNY's Accelerated Study in Associate Programs (ASAP) helps students earn associate degrees within three years by providing a range of financial, academic, and personal supports including comprehensive and personalized advisement, career counseling, tutoring, waivers for tuition and mandatory fees, MTA MetroCards, and additional financial assistance to defray the cost of textbooks.
- ASAP also offers special class scheduling options to ensure that ASAP students get the classes they need, are in classes with other ASAP students, and attend classes in convenient blocks of time to accommodate their work schedules. As students approach graduation, they receive special supports to help them transfer to 4-year colleges or transition into the workforce, depending on their goals

CUNY ASAP a final word...

ASAP is an alternative to the Excelsior scholarship for students that received a Pell Grant but did not receive enough to pay the tuition at a CUNY. For instance, if a student received a 1,000 Pell Grant and a 800 TAP Grant and the tuition at the CUNY is 4,000 then ASAP will cover the difference. This allows the students to avoid the shortcomings of the Excelsior Scholarship while still receiving full tuition.

College Readiness and CUNY

English

Students may meet the proficiency requirement in English by documenting any one of the following:

SAT I Verbal score of 480 or higher or SAT Critical Reading score of 480 or higher or SAT Evidence-Based Reading and Writing (EBRW) section score of 480 or higher

ACT English score of 20 or higher

NY State English Regents score of 75 or higher

Mathematics

Students may meet the proficiency requirement in mathematics by documenting any one of the following:

SAT Math score of 500 or higher

SAT Math Section (exam date March 2016 and thereafter), score of 530 or higher

ACT Math score of 21 or higher

NY State Regents:

Common Core Regents: Score of 70 or higher in Algebra I or a score of 70 or higher in Geometry or a score of 65 or higher in Algebra 2.

CUNY's Proficiency Index

Students who do not achieve the required scores on SAT, ACT, or New York State Regents Exams can satisfy the proficiency requirements with:

- an English proficiency index score of 65 or higher
- a math proficiency index score of 60 or higher

Proficiency Index Score

The proficiency index is a formula that combines overall high school grade point average with SAT and Regents scores to determine whether the student has a good chance of succeeding in a credit-bearing math or English course without any additional support. The proficiency index scores will be used to determine whether the student is eligible to begin in college level English and math or if remedial intervention is necessary. It places more emphasis on gpa than test scores.

Regular admission

- For those that do not qualify for EOP, you will go through the regular admission process.
- The process for both EOP and regular begins with the same application.

The Application as a Process

- Just because you submit an application does not mean that you can no longer send information to a college. The application is only the first step in the process.
- Once you apply to a school a file is opened. The file remains open until they receive all of your documentation. Upon receipt of all required documentation, the school can render a decision.
- Even after a school renders a decision, you can appeal with updated info. (SAT scores, mid-year grades, etc..)
- This process will go on well into March and sometimes into May. That gives you plenty of time to complete the application process.

Application Type

- Regular standard deadline or rolling admissions
- Early Action early admission decision no obligation
- Early Decision early decision binding obligation
 - Does improve chances in most circumstances, particularly with regard to HEOP.
 - May offer multiple Early Decision Deadlines. Early Decision I, II, etc.
 - Compare acceptance rates:
 https://www.collegetransitions.com/early-actiondecision-vs-regular-decision-admission-rates/

The SUNY Schools

- For students with low household incomes who want to apply for SUNY schools (EOP), make sure you check the appropriate box on the common application or the SUNY application
- If you would like a fee waiver for the SUNY schools and you are using the SUNY application, then you must fill out a SUNY fee waiver form. If you qualify for EOP then you DO NOT need to fill out this form. This form can be downloaded <u>online</u> or obtained from my web site.
- To apply to SUNY Community Colleges DO NOT USE the SUNY application. Visit the school's web site to apply because it is free.
- The deadline for most SUNY schools is rolling which means that the earlier you apply the better.
- Students are accepted until there is no more space available
- I highly recommend using the Common App to apply to SUNY (except for FIT).
- SUNY Potsdam, all SUNY Tech Schools have different verification for waivers. These schools will require a fee waiver form even if you use the Common Application.

The CUNY Schools

- To apply to CUNY you must open a portal account at <u>www.cuny.edu</u>.
- Once you open a portal account you will be able to begin the application.
- For \$65 you will be able to apply to 6 schools. Make sure you select some safety schools (Borough of Manhattan Community College, New York City College of Technology, Laguardia, York College, Queensboro).
- There will be few, if any, fee waivers for this application.
- You will need a credit card or \$65 money order made out to CUNY UAPC.
- The priority deadline for the CUNY application is February 1st, 2021. All applications received after that date will be reviewed on a space available basis. The deadline for the CUNY honors college is December 1st.
- Recommendations and essays are submitted/requested during the application. They are recommended but not required for most schools
- You can add some CUNY schools to the Common App. CUNY schools do accept the Common App Fee Waivers.

The Common Application

- The Common Application is used for most colleges including some CUNY schools and most SUNY schools.
- You can apply to up to 20 schools using the Common App.
- The Common Application works in conjunction with Naviance.
- Some students may receive a fee waiver for most applications on the Common Application if they meet certain qualifications.
- Many colleges have NO application fee.

The Commonapp fee waivers

- If you received a fee waiver for the SAT, then you will automatically be eligible for a fee waiver for the Common App.
- To apply for a fee waiver you must select the Common App fee waiver option (easier choice) on the common app. If you select this option, your counselor will have to verify that you meet the requirements.
- Individual colleges may also offer fee waivers that can be selected during the process.

Common App and Covid-19

The Common App will now include a section for students that have been impacted by Covid-19 both personally and/or educationally. Use this section to explain your circumstances.

Naviance and Family Connection

- All students have a Naviance account and will receive a tutorial on how to use it.
- Naviance allows students to research schools and their requirements and save them to a "Colleges I am Thinking About" list.
- In August the students will begin to match their Naviance account with the Common Application.
- Once they do this, they can move the colleges from the "Colleges I am Thinking About" list to the "Colleges that I am applying to" list.

Naviance Student

Students can also use Naviance to sign up for college visits, keep track of application deadlines, build a resume, research colleges, and manage their applications, including the sending of transcripts and teacher recommendations.

Naviance Family Connection? What can students do in Family Connection?

Let's look at the student's college application activities, which prompt actions you will take in supporting his or her application process. The steps include procedures if students are applying to Common Applications destinations. If a step is required for Common Application, it is noted.



- Register for the Common Application after August 1st
- Enter high school information, add at least one college, and sign the FERPA Release Authorization on Commonapp.org

Family Connection

- Complete the Common Application Account Matching process (if applying to a Common Application school)
- Add non-Common Application colleges to the Colleges I'm Applying To list
- Request transcripts and teacher recommendation letters for Common Application and non-Common Application destinations
- Track status of requested transcripts and recommendations

Other applications

- Some schools do not accept the Common App.
- For those schools, visit the school's website for the online application. It is usually found under the undergraduate admissions section of the web site.
- Be sure to add the college to Naviance.
- If electronic transcript submissions are not accepted, one will have to be mailed or emailed to the admissions office. Make sure you follow the instructions provided by the college.

Transcripts and Mid-year reports

Transcripts will be sent through Naviance.

Mid senior year transcripts are sent in February through

Naviance. They are actually very important.

 Given the current circumstances mid year grades will be even more important for you. They will hold much more weight.

- All students will receive a recommendation letter from their counselor.
- Some schools also require 1-2 teacher recommendations.
- Teacher recommendations are requested through Naviance only! DO NOT add a recommender in Common Application unless it is for an "other recommender"!!!
- You must speak with a teacher directly first before adding them to Naviance. Some teachers have a form that they require in order to submit a recommendation letter. The earlier you request the recommendation letter the better. Some teachers place a cap on the number they will write.
- Make sure you pick a teacher that knows you well.
- The more information that you provide to the teacher about yourself, the better the letter will be. Consider supplying the teacher with a resume.
- Speak to the teacher in your junior year.

When?

• It is best to ask teachers in the spring of junior year if they are willing and able to write a letter on your behalf. If they say "yes", then ask them about their preferred timelines. Some teachers like to take care of the letters over the summer and others want a true summer vacation. If you have colleges with early deadlines (October 15 and November 1), make sure you provide your recommenders with at least a month's time to write the letters.

Why?

 Letters of recommendation and essays are the two most powerful subjective characteristics of a student's application. Think about it, if two students present similar statistics (grades and test scores) and colleges need to accept just one of the students; letters of recommendation can often be the critical tipping factor. Colleges want to know how a student has contributed to the classroom, are they respectful of others' opinions, do they reach out to help their peers, are they leaders in class discussions and group projects, etc.

How?

 The more information you provide your recommender, the better the letter will be. I suggest that all students prepare an Activity Resume or a Brag Sheet that details the following items: extracurricular activities; community service involvement; leadership positions; honors, scholarship and awards; employment; internships and job shadowing experiences and what you've done during your last three summers. Make sure you focus on your responsibilities and accomplishments in the resume so that teachers will be able to capture some of those details in their letters.

Must do's:

- Be certain to <u>waive your right</u> to view recommendation letters on your application forms. Admission officers will trust them more if you haven't seen them.
- Send a confirmation email to your recommenders thanking them for agreeing to write your letter of recommendation and being specific about next steps.
- <u>Send thank you notes</u> once you know the colleges have received the letters of recommendation.

College Essays

- Essays should be PERSONAL. They should set you apart from other applicants. It is your one opportunity to share with an admissions representative personal events in your life. Examples are: unusual family situations, family illness, neighborhood crime/poverty, languages spoken in house, first generation to college, accomplishments, etc.
- Essays will be copied to the Common Application by you.
- The essay cannot exceed 650 words.
- Essays should <u>NOT</u> restate your resume and application.
- They already have your GPA, test scores, extracurricular activities.
- Make sure that your essay highlights personal characteristics that colleges are looking for in a student (see Holistic admissions).
- Have it done by September 2020

College Essays

- 1. Your first paragraph should grab the reader
- 2. Be a real person, not an anonymous author
- 3. Don't be boring
- 4. Make your essay correct and beautiful
- 5. Approach the essay from a different angle. Avoid predictability.
- 6. Be clear and logical
- 7. Leave your reader with a lasting impression
- 8 Don't just say it....Prove it. Leadership, Commitment, Work ethic, Public service, Openness, Ambition, Curiosity.

Essays and Covid 19

Be weary of submitting an essay about the Coronavirus. For those who have been seriously impacted in terms of health and/or job loss, it should be a part of your essay, but not the entire essay. The essay is a snapshot of your life and should not focus on one particular incident. It needs to tell a story.

Financial Aid and Scholarships Preparation is KEY

Scholarships

- There are many different scholarships.
- Some scholarships require an application, while others do not.
- Some schools automatically consider you for a scholarship, others do not.
- Scholarships are very competitive.
- If you do not meet the qualifications, do not waste your time. They can take hours or days to complete.
- www.fastweb.com, www.scholarships.com, www.goingmerry.com, www.collegeboard.org, and many more...
- NEVER pay for a scholarship!

College Board Opportunity Scholarships

Earn Credit through your Collegeboard account. The more effort you put in, the more opportunities you have to earn a scholarship. Complete all six tasks, and you're eligible to earn \$40,000. Scholarships will be awarded through monthly drawings to students who complete each action. For information on the requirements, visit the link below:

https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/?SFMC_cid=EM19 9403-&rid=52533362

Excelsior Scholarship (Free Tuition)

Eligibility

An applicant must:

- be a resident of NYS and have resided in NYS for 12 continuous months prior to the beginning of the term;
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- have either graduated from high school in the United States, earned a high school equivalency diploma, or passed a federally approved "Ability to Benefit" test, as defined by the Commissioner of the State Education Department;
- have a combined federal adjusted gross income of \$125,000 or less;
- be pursuing an undergraduate degree at a SUNY or CUNY college, including community colleges and the statutory colleges at Cornell University and Alfred University;
- be enrolled in at least 12 credits per term and complete at least 30 credits each year (successively), applicable toward his or her degree program;
- if attended college prior to the 2018-19 academic year, have earned at least 30 credits each year (successively), applicable toward his or her degree program prior to applying for an Excelsior Scholarship;
- be in a non-default status on a student loan made under any NYS or federal education loan program or on the repayment of any NYS award;
- be in compliance with the terms of the service condition(s) imposed by a NYS award that you have previously received; and
- execute a Contract agreeing to reside in NYS for the length of time the award was received, and, if employed during such time, be employed in NYS.

Excelsior Scholarship

- The application becomes available for the scholarship in April of the senior year.
- You must first have committed to a SUNY or CUNY in order to complete the application.
- TAP and PELL will be applied first to tuition and the reminder in balance will be paid by the scholarship.
- Will NOT cover fees (500-1500)
- Will convert to a NO INTEREST loan if you deafult on the contract.

New York STEM Scholarship

 For those that do not qualify for the Excelsior Scholarship you might qualify for the NYS STEM Scholarship.

An applicant must:

- be a NYS resident and have resided in NYS for 12 continuous months prior to the beginning of the fall college term;
- be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- be a high school senior/recent high school graduate who will be enrolled full time at a public or private college located in NYS, beginning in the fall term following his or her high school graduation;
- be ranked in the top 10 percent of his/her high school graduating class at a NYS high school;
- be matriculated in an approved undergraduate program leading to a degree in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics at a public or private college located in NYS;
- maintain a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher;
- execute a Service Contract agreeing to reside and work in the field of Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics in NYS for five years. <u>View the terms and conditions of the service contract</u>.

Financial Aid

- Financial Aid will be addressed more thoroughly at a later point..
- Some schools require additional financial information such as the CSS financial aid profile. The deadline for this varies, but it can be as early as November.

FAFSA

- The FAFSA is the FREE application for Federal Student Aid.
- The application for the 2021-2022 college school year will become available in October of 2020.
- The FAFSA will determine if you are eligible for the PELL grant.
- ALL students regardless of income should complete the FAFSA.
- Most colleges require the FAFSA before they can award academic scholarships.
- use the FAFSA forecaster to estimate how much aid you will get.
- Use Net Price Calculators to estimate cost

CSS Profile

The <u>CSS Profile</u> is a scholarship application administered by the College Board and is required by many private colleges.

The CSS Profile is not like the FAFSA, it is much more complicated.

The CSS Profile digs much deeper into your financial situation.

The CSS Profile is required by BOTH parents.

Under certain very specific circumstances the CSS Profile for the noncustodial parent can be waived.

Financial Aid – other items

- Many colleges will require additional paperwork:
 - 2018 and 2019 tax transcripts
 - Dependency verification forms
 - Signed copies of 2019 tax return
 - Signed copy of 2018 tax return
- If issues arise, more verification may be requested:
 - If the student is not listed as a dependent on the tax return of the primary parent.
 - If the income is so low that questions arise regarding viability.
 - If parents are married and living together but file separate returns where one or both is head of household.

2019 Tax Return

- If you have not yet filed your 2019 tax return, this information can save you from a huge headache next year.
- Make sure that the facts on the tax return match the living situation.
- Two people can NOT be the head of the same household.
- You can NOT be the "head of household" if you are Married and Living together in the same house.
- If you are remarried and living with your spouse, both incomes are required.
- If you file married separately, both incomes are required.

Head of Household

To qualify for the Head of Household filing status while married, you must:

- File your taxes separately from your spouse
- Pay more than half of the household expenses
- Not have lived with your spouse for the last 6 months of the year
- Provide the principle home of a qualifying dependent
- Claim an exemption for your dependent
- If you meet all of these requirements, you may file as Head of Household even while married.

If you mess up?

- If you make errors on your 2019 tax return and these errors come to light during the financial aid process, a school may make adjustments to your FAFSA without your knowledge.
- In some cases a college will require that you complete a 1040X amended return to make adjustments.
- Avoid this at all costs!
- Colleges are VERY thorough in the review of financial documents.

Before you take those loans

You can always appeal a financial aid package. Before you take out a parent plus loan consider asking the college for more assistance in the form of a grant. The college may ask for more information such as a change in circumstances. It can't hurt top ask...

LOANS

- All students will be awarded \$5,500 in Government direct loans.
 - \$3,500 Subsidized
 - \$2,000 Unsubsidized
 - 4.53% low interest rate
 - Loans are considered financial aid and will be a piece of all financial aid packages for students that choose to go away to college. The only completely free option for most people is CUNY.
 - Loans can help to begin the process of building a credit history and can lower interest rates in the future. Not all debt is bad unless you default on it.

Loan Forgiveness

- Have you ever wished your student loans would just go away? While there's no way to snap your fingers and have your student loan debt magically disappear, there are ways to get it forgiven.
- There are various student loan forgiveness programs out there for people who work in public service, education, and other areas. Some states are even helping debt-saddled graduates pay off their loans.
- Whether you're struggling with six-figure debt or looking for "free money" to pay off your student debt, student loan forgiveness could save the day.

Loan Forgiveness

 To download a document of loan forgiveness programs, visit my web site at

https://www.admissionsandaid.com/downloads.html

FSAID

- All students and parents must create an FSA ID in order to apply for financial aid.
- You could do this now, but be sure to write down your username and password.
- Your parent will also need an account. You will need their email address and password.
- https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm.
- The name must be exactly as it is on the social security card.
- If you, the parent, have already created an FSAID, you will need to use this. You CAN NOT create a new one.

NCAA Clearinghouse

- If you are going to play division I or II athletics in college you need to complete the NCAA application found at https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/
- This will allow the recruitment process to begin.
- All students must meet academic requirements that will be reviewed with their guidance counselor.
- For Q&A visit this link

NCAA

Insider Tip: While neither athletes nor coaches can initiate phone conversations until June 15 after an athlete's sophomore year, college coaches are still going to build their recruiting classes prior to that date through online research, attending events and communicating with athletes' coaches. Having an online profile is critical for athletes to get evaluated early. Athletes can also initiate communication by emailing coaches of programs they are interested in as early as possible.

NCAA

Send them your athletic resume, which includes:

- Your highlight video
- Any sport-specific stats
- Your academic information
- Why you are interested in their program
- When the NCAA recruiting rules allow coaches to contact you, you will already be on their radar. Once your sport's contact period begins, be sure to follow up communications with a phone call.

Summing it up

Admissions Deadlines

- CUNY General Admission: February 1st.
- CUNY Macaulay Honors College: Dec. 1st.
- Most SUNY Schools: Rolling
- SUNY Binghamton: January 15th.
- Columbia: January 1st.
- NYU: January 1st.
- Most Competitive schools: Jan. 1st 15th.
- Fordham University: January 15th.

Other Deadlines

- CSS Profile: Varies per school can be as early as November 15th
- FAFSA Deadline: Varies per school can be as early as January 15th.

Upcoming Events

- NACAC National College Fair at Jacob Javitz on 10/4 from 1-4:(pre-register) http://www.gotomystemfair.com/
- SUNY fairs and events https://www.suny.edu/attend/events/

Links

- www.collegeboard.com
- www.fastweb.com
- www.scholarships.com
- www.admissionsandaid.com (MY PERSONAL SITE)
- www.fafsa.ed.gov
- www.studentloans.gov
- https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm
- www.goingmerry.com
- https://www.summerdiscovery.com/online-courses

Coronavirus updates

- https://www.ivywise.com/blog/corona-virus-cancellations-college-visits-and-admissions-testing/
- https://www.chronicle.com/article/Here-s-a-List-of-College s-/248626
- https://pages.collegeboard.org/sat-covid-19-updates
- https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid19.html
- https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2020/05/11/live-upd
 ates-latest-news-coronavirus-and-higher-education
- https://www.insidehighered.com/admissions/article/2020/ 05/04/colleges-field-more-questions-seniors-about-deferrin g-admission
- https://www.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/docume nts/counselor/Frequently-Asked-Questions-COVID-19.pdf

Questions

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