



College — Bound

College Office
Room 350

Volume 5, Issue 5
February 1, 2013

The Importance of Visiting Schools

Visiting schools is one of the most important steps of the college process. Whether you are a senior, a junior, or younger, you should be taking every opportunity to go to colleges and see the campus. Nothing else gives you a better sense of if you would like to attend the school for four years.

Getting a feel for a campus in person is completely different than reading about a school or hearing someone talk about it. When visiting a school you should explore the classrooms, the library, and the dorms. Try to talk to students who go to the school. Find out how often they study, and what they do when they are not studying.

Sometimes being on a college campus can be an eye-opener. Students may think a school sounds great on paper, but find they are uncomfortable in the school environment. Or a student may have dismissed a

college based on what they have heard, but really like it in person.

Visiting schools does not have to be expensive. You can take a reasonably-priced Greyhound bus to most places upstate if your parents do not drive. There are also \$15 bus services available to Boston and Washington DC, two cities which are full of colleges.

When visiting a school try to let go of your preconceived notions. Come prepared with a list of questions to ask an admissions representative or tour guide.

Above all, NEVER make the decision to attend a school without seeing it first. You want to make sure your final decision of where to attend college is the most informed possible.

Sincerely,

Diana Sultzer/

College Counselor



College of the Month: Stevens Institute of Technology

Hoboken, NJ

Percentage Acceptance: 49

Students Say:

Career Services are Great

Campus Feels Safe

Most Popular Majors:

Business Administration

Computer/ Information Technology

Services Administration

Mechanical Engineering

Famous Alumni:

-Aaron Cohen, *Former director of NASA*

-Lawrence Babbio, *Vice President of Verizon*

-Alfred Fielding, *inventor of Bubble Wrap*

-Richard Reeves, *Emmy winner*

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Important Dates in

February:

- Feb 8: Deadline to register for the March SATs
- Feb 9– SUNY Financial Aid Day at Nassau Community College & Old Westbury
- Feb 15– Deadline for the Carolina Rice Scholarship

Spotlight on Health Careers: Respiratory Therapists



Respiratory therapists assess, treat, and care for patients with breathing problems. They assume responsibility for respiratory care, including supervising therapy technicians. They initiate and conduct therapeutic procedures, maintain patient records, and operate equipment.

Respiratory therapy is a social job. One must be good with people, and be able to work with both colleagues and patients.

Respiratory therapists must have vocational education, on the job experience, and an Associate's Degree. Some positions may require a Bachelor's

Degree.

You can study respiratory therapy at many schools in New York, including LIU-Brooklyn, Mohawk Valley Community College, Molloy College, Nassau Community College, Onondaga Community College, SUNY Stony Brook, and Westchester Community College.

In New York State, the average salary for an entry level worker in this field is about \$49,000. For an experienced worker, the average salary is about \$69,000 per year.

NY Career Zone

rates respiratory therapy as an "in-demand" field. It's job prospects are described as favorable. They estimate an increase of 60 jobs per year, and a total of 80 job openings per year, through 2016.

How to Read Your SAR

"Your SAR is basically a summary of all the information you put on your FAFSA."

Your SAR is your Student Aid Report. You can view this once you have successfully submitted your FAFSA and it has been processed. This means that your report has been sent to the Federal Government as well as each school you listed on the FAFSA.

Your SAR is basically a summary of all the information you put on your FAFSA. You can view this by logging onto

www.fafsa.gov and clicking on 'View and Print my SAR Report.'

The one thing most students have a question about is the EFC number in the top corner of their SAR. The EFC is 'Expected Family Contribution.' This is the number the FAFSA has generated that you and your family should pay each year for college. For example, if your EFC is 200, the FAFSA has determined that your family can con-

tribute \$200 a year towards your education. Every school you put on the FAFSA receives this number, which is why it is important to put every single school on the FAFSA.

Scholarships That Do Not Require Citizenship

A. Patrick Charnon Memorial Scholarship

www.free-scholarship-online.com

For students who value tolerance and compassion. Must write an essay about these values.

Deadline: March 31

Ana Maria Arias Scholarship

www.scholarships4students.com

For Hispanic women attending a 4 year college.

Deadline: April 1

Barbara Wiedner and Dorothy Vandercook Peace Scholarship

www.peacescholarships.org

No grade requirements. Essay and two recommendations required.

Deadline: March 1





Juniors: Prepare for the SATs!

Juniors—SAT time is coming up! You may be wondering when you should take your SATs for the first time. Every single junior should be taking the SATs this spring. If you don't like your scores that gives you time to take the exam a second time in the fall.

If you do not have any AP tests this year you should take the SAT in May. If you are taking AP exams in May, then you should take the SAT in June. However, you will probably want to take an SAT II Subject Test in your AP subject in May. This would make sense because the subject is still fresh in your mind.

All juniors should be taking inventory of schools they may be interested in and looking to see if these schools require the SAT II.

You may also be wondering what a "good score" is. This depends on the type of schools you are interested in. Look up the schools you might want to apply to on the Princeton Review website and check out what the average SAT scores are for that school.

A good baseline for everybody to keep in mind is that a CUNY 4 year school requires you to have a minimum of

500 on each section of the SAT. Therefore, if you received under a 50 on any section of the PSAT make sure that you prepare thoroughly for the SAT.

Take advantage of Prep classes that are available. This spring the Ivy Key is offering a prep class in our school for a reduced rate. A flyer distributed during assembly. And make sure you are on the College Office email list for more updates! If you do not receive emails from the Queens Gateway College Office see Ms. Sultzter to put your name on the list.



Where Should I Be? February Edition

Seniors:

- ◆ At this point you need to have submitted all your applications, transcripts, recommendations, essays, and SAT scores to all colleges you are applying to
- ◆ You should have completed and submitted your FAFSA, TAP, and CSS Profile
- ◆ You should be applying for scholarships

- ◆ You should be preparing for AP Exams
- ◆ You should be visiting schools you applied to

Juniors:

- ◆ You should be preparing to take the SAT exam in the spring
- ◆ You should be preparing for your AP exams

- ◆ You should be visiting schools
- ◆ You should be researching colleges
- ◆ You should be thinking about topics for your college essay

“Seniors: At this point you should have completed and submitted your FAFSA, TAP, and CSS Profile”

College Life: Meeting New People

College can be a very exciting time, but it can also make you nervous to go into a new environment where you don't know anyone. Here are a few ways you can get to know new people on your college campus.

A few great ways to meet people who share your interests are to join a club, an intramural sports team, or a volunteer organization. These

organizations are social and many students join them.

You can also attend religious services on campus. If you are a spiritual person you may like meeting others who share this with you, and having a social activity that does not involve drinking or partying.

Getting a campus job is a good way to meet people while making extra money for

yourself. Starting a study group in one of your classes can also be very social.

Above all, just be open to new people. Most students were relatively sheltered in high school, and they will be meeting new kinds of people in college. Keeping an open mind and being friendly can go a long way in helping you meet new friends in college



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**Queens Gateway
to Health Sciences
Secondary School**

Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School, established in 1994, is a 6-12 comprehensive educational institution accredited by the New York State Department of Education. It offers an academic college preparatory curriculum featuring science and math courses. A high-level communication skills and humanities program complements the science and math curriculum. The goal of the school is to develop a pool of broadly educated health professionals who will constitute the twenty-first century's health care delivery work force.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. *Some of my friends have heard from colleges already, but I haven't. Should I be worried?*

No, you shouldn't be worried. The average time to hear responses from colleges is in March and April. Some people may hear earlier, but there is no need to worry if you have not. If it makes you feel better, you can call the admissions office for each of your schools and ask them if they received your completed application.

2. *I got into my dream school! Shouldn't I just send in my deposit and go there?*

No! You should be happy and proud of your acceptance, but do not make any definite decisions until you see your financial aid packages from all of your colleges. You don't want to end up overpaying for college because you didn't wait.

3. *Why does the TAP form only let me put down one school?*

The TAP form goes to New York State, so it doesn't matter which school is on your form. If you go to school in New York State your TAP will be the same amount, no matter which school it is.

4. *I didn't get into the program I wanted, but I got into the college. Should I go there?*

Think about what your priorities are. If your dream was to go to NYU it may still be worth it to go to the school, even if you didn't get into the program you wanted. But if you know you only want to do Pharmacy, make sure you can get into that program at a later date before deciding to go to St. John's University as an undecided major. You also need to take into account where else you got in. Try to get as much information as possible before making a decision.

