

College — Bound

College Office
Room 350

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Juniors: Contact Colleges!

March of junior year is the time to begin contacting colleges if you have not done so already. It makes sense to get all the information and literature you can now so you know which colleges you want to visit by the time summer begins and have a completed list of colleges you are going to apply to by the beginning of senior year.

Colleges welcome contact from students. You can call or email any college admissions office and ask them to send you brochures or course catalogues. Colleges want you to apply so they will always be eager to send you any information.

Many college admissions offices also have an IM system set up so that you can chat online to admissions counselors and recruiters. To see if a college you are interested in has this option, go to the website and find the admissions homepage.

The most important thing is to gather as much information as you can. If you are interested in becoming a physician, find out what kinds of Biology courses you would take at a school, what internship opportunities are offered, and what medical schools alumni have gone to. This type of information is important because you want to know the strengths and weaknesses of the schools you are interested in.

Above all, be persistent. It can be overwhelming to do all this research while you are also studying for SATs, AP exams, and Regents but you will be glad you did when you reach senior year feeling prepared.

Sincerely,
Diana Sultzer/ College Counselor



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Important Dates in

March:

- **March 8—Registration Deadline for April ACT**
- **March 9—SAT Exam**
- **March 25-April 2—Spring Recess**

College of the Month: Dartmouth College

Hanover, NH

Popular Majors:

Economics

Government

Psychology

History

English

Students Say:

School is Well-Run

Campus Feels Safe

Student Publications are Popular

Famous Alumni:

-Nelson Rockefeller, *former Vice-President*

-Connie Britton, *actress*

-Rachel Dratch, *SNL cast member*

-Mindy Kaling, *actress, writer*

-Meryl Streep, *actress*

Spotlight on Health Careers: School Psychologists



School psychologists work alongside social workers, guidance counselors, and teachers to help students deal with mental and emotional issues. They explore processes of learning and develop techniques to address students' educational problems.

The tasks of a school psychologist might include compiling student data, reporting information to the proper authorities in cases of child abuse or neglect, assessing students' needs, administering psychological tests, providing consultation to parents and teachers on issues such as behavior modifica-

tion, collaborating with education professionals for school programs, counseling children and families, developing individualized education plans, maintaining student records, and being a resource for children and families on issues such as grief and loss.

School psychologists are highly educated. A Master's Degree would be the minimum education to have, but most school psychologists have Psy.Eds or Ph.Ds.in Psychology.

Colleges in New York where you can study school psychology include Adelphi Uni-

versity, Barnard College, Cornell University, Most CUNYs, Dowling College, Fordham University, Hofstra University, Ithaca College, Manhattan College, NYU, and NYIT.

NY Career Zone estimates that a beginning school psychologist earns \$52,000 per year, and an experienced professional earns \$97,000. They also estimate there will be an increase of about 110 school psychologist jobs per year.

“You don't want to commit to a loan without really understanding what you are getting into.”

Taking the Mystery Out of Student Loans

Most college students need to take out at least one loan to cover the cost of tuition. But you don't want to commit to a loan without really understanding what you are getting into.

A subsidized Stafford loan is based on demonstrated financial need. The federal government pays the interest on the loan while the student is in school and for a grace period of six months after graduation. You

qualify for this loan based on your FAFSA. This is the best kind of loan to get.

An unsubsidized Stafford loan is not based on family income. Students are responsible for the interest that accrues from the date of disbursement. Both types of Stafford loans allow a student to borrow up to \$23,000 for undergraduate studies. The interest rate is 6.0% for a subsidized loan and 6.8% for an

unsubsidized loan.

A Federal PLUS loan is co-signed by a natural or adopted parent. It becomes the parent's responsibility to pay if the student defaults on the loan. Parents must have good credit to qualify for this loan. You do not need a certain income to qualify for this loan. The fixed interest rate is 8.5% and repayment begins within 60 days of the last disbursement.

Scholarships

Stephanie Marie Burgos Scholarship

Open to high school seniors with a minimum 80average.

Go to the College Office for an application.

Deadline: APRIL 9, 2013

Verizon Wireless Black History Month Essay Contest

Must have a minimum 2.0 GPA and write a 500 word essay.

www.uncf.org

Deadline: MARCH 15, 2013

Writers of the Future Contest

Students must submit an original work of science fiction or fantasy

Apply at:
www.writersofthefuture.com

Deadline: SEPTEMBER 30, 2013



SAT v. ACT

If you are a junior, you may be wondering if you should take the SAT or the ACT. Colleges give equal weight to either test. Here are some of the basic differences.

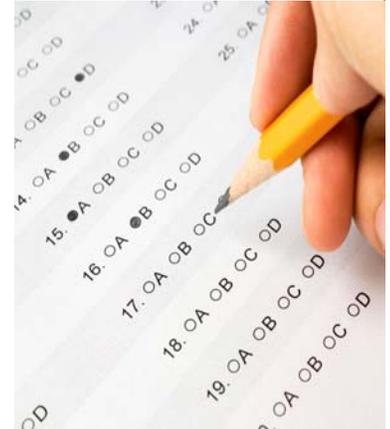
The SAT has 3 sections—Critical Reading, Math, and Writing. There are 3 sections in Critical Reading, for a total of 67 questions. There are 3 sections of Math for a total of 54 questions. For writing, there are 49 questions. You write one essay and answer 2 multiple choice grammar sections. The highest you can score on each section is 800, for a total of 2400

on the SAT.

The ACT consists of 5 parts—English, Math, Reading, Science Reasoning, and Writing. There is one section of each. The English section is 75 questions are you are given 45 minutes. The Math section is 60 questions and you are given 60 minutes. The Reading section is 40 questions and you are given 35 minutes. The Science Reasoning section is 40 questions and you are given 35 minutes. The Writing section consists of one essay and you are given 30 minutes. The highest score you can receive in each section is 36, and those scores are averaged to

create your ACT composite score.

One test is not easier or more difficult than the other. The SAT is more popular on the East and West coasts, while the ACT is commonly taken in the Midwest and in the South. Since you are probably more familiar with SAT scores, below is a chart comparing how the SAT and ACT are scored.



SAT/ACT Score Comparison

| SAT Composite | Percentile | ACT Composite |
|---------------|------------|---------------|
| 2200-2400 | 99 | 32-36 |
| 2100-2130 | 97 | 30 |
| 1960-1980 | 92 | 28 |
| 1850 | 85 | 26 |
| 1730 | 75 | 24 |
| 1610 | 63 | 22 |
| 1490 | 48 | 20 |
| 1370 | 33 | 18 |
| 1240 | 19 | 16 |

This is an estimate of how SAT and ACT scores compare, according to the Princeton Review.

College Life: Greek Life

You may be wondering about fraternities and sororities. On some campuses Greek Life is huge, while on others there are no organizations at all. That is something to consider when you look at schools.

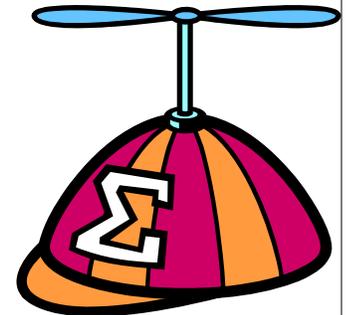
Fraternities (the organizations for males) and sororities (the organizations for females) tend to be more popular in schools where the majority of students live on campus. They

are also often a large part of social life at large state schools. Although CUNY has Greek organizations, they are definitely a smaller part of school life at colleges where the majority of students commute.

There are all kinds of fraternities and sororities. There are Honors organizations for specific majors, community service organizations, and organizations for specific cultural groups,

such as Latino fraternities.

If you are very interested in joining one, look to see what that schools you are interested in offer. Similarly, if you know that you have no interest in Greek Life look for schools that offer a lot of different social options, rather than focusing entirely on fraternities and sororities.



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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. *I did not get into my first choice college. Can I transfer?*

You can transfer to any school from any school as long as you have the right grades in college. However, before you think about transferring give the school you are going to a chance. Just because it was not your first choice does not necessarily mean it is not the right school for you.

2. *I got into my dream school but I can't afford to go there. Is there anything I can do?*

If you got into a comparable school (for example NYU and Boston University) which gave

you more aid you can call the financial aid office of your dream school and tell them that. Explain that you are very interested in the school but another school gave you more money. Sometimes the school will adjust your financial aid package to match their rival's.

3. *I am beginning at a 2 year college. Will it take me 6 years to get my Bachelor's Degree?*

No. If you stay on track at your 2 year school, when you transfer to a four year school you will just have to finish up your last 2 years there.

4. *I received acceptances but no financial aid packages yet. Should I be worried?*

No. Some colleges accept students before receiving their FAFSA. As long as you submitted a FAFSA to the school you will eventually get a financial aid package, most likely in March or April. But be smart—do not tell a school you are going there until you see the financial aid package!

