



# College — Bound

College Office  
Room 350

Volume 5, Issue 7  
April 3 2013

## Get The Most Out of A College Fair

As you know, at Queens Gateway we hold our college fair in the fall. However, there are college fairs going on throughout the fall and spring all over the city. As an informed student, you know that college fairs are an excellent opportunity to meet with representatives from various colleges and receive information and literature. However, a large college fair can be overwhelming. You may be wondering how to get the most out of the experience.

Your first priority should be to speak with the representatives from the colleges that are located farthest away. These are the schools that it will be the most difficult for you to go visit, so it makes sense to get as much information as you can get when a representative is visiting.

It's also important to ask the right questions. You will only have a few minutes to speak with a person from the school

and you want to make that time count. Make a list of general questions beforehand that you want to know about every school you are thinking about. Don't ask for statistics like how many students attend—you can find that out from the school website. Ask questions that require insight from someone who knows the school well.

Finally, see as many schools as you can. You may think you are not interested in a school, but there could be a lot you don't know about it. Be open to every school.



Sincerely,

Diana Sultzer/  
College Counselor

## College of the Month: Stanford University

Stanford, CA

Student: Faculty Ratio: 6:1

Popular Majors:

Biology

Economics

International Relations

Students Say:

School is Well-Run

Students are Friendly

Dorms are like Palaces

School Feels Safe

Famous Alumni:

-Fred Savage, actor

-Sigourney Weaver, actress

-Reese Witherspoon, actress

-Rachel Maddow, TV Host

-Sally, Ride, astronaut

-Chelsea Clinton, former first daughter

### Inside this issue:

Spotlight on Health Careers: Speech Language Pathologists 2

How to Ace the SAT 2

What is a Proprietary College? 2

Organizing Your Own College Visit 3

How Do I Write About Myself? 3

College Life: Parties 3

Frequently Asked Questions 4

### Important Dates in

#### April:

- April 3—Back from Spring Recess
- April 5—Registration Deadline for May SAT
- April 13—ACT Exam
- April 20—cSplash Lecture Series
- April 21—Open House at LIU: Brooklyn

## Spotlight on Health Careers: Speech Language Pathologists



A speech-language pathologist is a professional who assesses and treats patients who have language, speech, and voice disorders. Their tasks include monitoring progress, evaluating hearing and speech test results, administering hearing tests, developing and implementing treatment plans for problems such as stuttering, delayed language, swallowing disorders, and other voice problems. Speech language pathologists sometimes work in clinics, and sometimes in schools. They instruct clients in effective communication, including sign language. Did you see *The King's Speech*? These days,

the man who helped the king would have been a speech language pathologist.

Most positions as a speech language pathologist require a Master's Degree. You can earn this degree at schools such as Queens, Brooklyn, Lehman, Hofstra, Ithaca College, LIU – Brooklyn, LIU – CW Post, Marymount Manhattan College, Pace University, SUNY Fredonia, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Plattsburgh, and SUNY New Paltz.

According to NY Career Zone, the average salary for a beginning speech language pathologist is \$49,000, and the

salary for an experienced worker is \$78,000.

NY Career Zone rates the job prospects of a speech language pathologist as favorable. They estimate that in New York there will be an average of 170 job openings per year through 2016.

## How to Ace the SAT

*“Look at the SAT scores required for the colleges you are interested in.”*

The first step to doing well on the SAT is to understand the format of the test and the types of questions you will be asked. Devote a block of time per week to studying for it. Practice is the best way to ensure that you will do well.

Second, do a dry run of the test when you begin studying to see how you score. This test will let you know what areas you most need to work on. Test

yourself again later to see what improvements you have made.

Third, study each section separately. It can be overwhelming to try to take in everything at once. Pretend that the different sections are the different subjects you study in school and study accordingly.

Fourth, look at the SAT scores required for the colleges you are interested in. This will give you a clear goal,

rather than to just “do well.”

Finally, do the best you can on the exam. Most students take the test twice, but don't get into the mentality that it doesn't matter how you do because you will take it again in the fall. Treat the spring exam as if it is the only one you are taking.

## What Is A Proprietary College?

A proprietary college is a for-profit college. Most colleges, even the most expensive private ones, are non-profit. All money taken in from tuition is put back into the school in some way. In the case of proprietary schools, someone owns the school and is profiting from it as if it were a business.

Proprietary colleges may seem appealing to some students because of their low

admission standards. After all, their purpose is to make money from students paying tuition, so they accept as many students as possible. However, what you must be careful of is cost. NEVER believe a school that makes guarantees about the money you will earn after graduation. Many graduates end up in the kind of debt they cannot get out of because they are making the salary of a high school graduate

while trying to pay enormous student loans.

As with any type of college, some proprietary schools have better reputations than others. However, if you are a student looking to a for-profit school because it is the only one you can get into it, I would recommend going to a 2 year CUNY instead. It is more cost-effective to transfer to a regular 4 year school after.



## Organizing Your Own College Visit

Queens Gateway organizes some college trips throughout the year, but these trips cannot accommodate every student who wants to go, nor can we visit every school our students are interested in. However, sophomores and juniors can take initiative and visit colleges on their own.

Check the website of the college you are interested in. You can usually find information about visiting under “Prospective Students” or “Undergraduate Admissions.” Investigate what days and times information sessions and campus tours are held. Check to see if you are required

to register in advance to participate.

Inquire if students are allowed to wander on their own after the tour. If the answer is yes, plan to visit the library and cafeteria, or any other place where college students may congregate so that you will have the opportunity to approach them and ask questions. Also ask if it would be possible for you to sit in a class of your intended major.

One possible way to do college visits over the summer is to take your list of schools and arrange them by

state. This way you can visit several schools at once. For example, if you and your parents stay one night in Boston you can visit Harvard, Lesley, MIT, Boston University, Northeastern University, and Emerson College.

Finally, have a set of questions you ask at each school so you can compare. Frequently asked questions are what size are typical classes, what percentage of students are accepted each year, how many undergraduate students attend the school, and what is the average GPA and test scores of accepted students.



## How Do I Write About Myself?

Juniors have a lot of writing to do. You are beginning to write your college essays as well as writing a recommendation for yourself to give into the college office. Many might be wondering: what do I say?

First, think about your academics. What subjects do you perform well in? Why do you think that is? Also consider writing about your favorite subject. You can also write about your

achievements outside the classroom—are you an active participant in extracurricular activities? Do you volunteer? These are things colleges want to know about.

Another way to approach writing about yourself is to discuss your goals. Write about how they came to be your goals and what you hope to accomplish.

Don't be afraid to brag about yourself a bit. Talk about situations in which you had a leadership position. Talk about any awards and honors you have received.

Finally think to yourself, if I was a college what would I want to know about me? Put in any personal background stories that you think will help a college understand you better as a person.

*“Many might be wondering: what do I say?”*

## College Life: Parties

How many times have you heard the phrase, “That’s a party school”? What is a party school? What are the implications for you if you go to one?

Traditionally, people say “party school” to indicate that students like to drink and go out, and don’t spend much time studying. However, this is not necessarily fair.

All colleges where

most of the students are not commuters, except very religious colleges, offer distractions and parties. The fact is that students who are looking for an active social life will find it. Students who are looking for an intellectual experience will find it as well. It doesn’t matter what school you go to.

And what about drinking? It’s true that alcohol is very prevalent in many college cam-

pus. It’s no secret that college students like to drink. But just because it is popular does not mean all students do it. At every school (even at Princeton Review’s top rated party school, West Virginia University) there are students who choose not to drink excessively, and who do other things in their social life. No matter what school you go to, how much you party and *how* you party is your choice.



**College Office  
Room 350**

**Diana Sultzer, College Counselor  
Kellee Nazaire, Guidance Counselor  
Barbara Abioye, Guidance Counselor**

**Judy A. Henry, Principal  
Evan Madin, Assistant Principal  
Ghandi Moussa, Assistant Principal**

**Phone: 718-969-3155 ext 3502  
E-mail: qgwcollegeoffice@gmail.com**

**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. When should I be receiving my financial aid package?*

You will most likely be receiving your award letter in late March or early April. If you don't get an award letter from a school you were accepted to by April 15 call the school and make sure they have all your documents.

*2. I received an acceptance letter asking me to send back a card with a deposit. If I don't, will I lose my spot?*

You have until May 1 to let your college know that you are attending. After May 1, colleges will begin offering your spot to students on their waiting list.

*3. I still haven't heard from my first choice school! What do I do?*

Now is an appropriate time to begin calling schools you haven't heard from yet. Call the admissions office and tell them you applied to the school and are still waiting for a response. While they are unlikely to give you an answer over the phone, they can probably tell you the date they send their letters out.

*4. How much money is too much to take out in a loan?*

There is no magic number that is "too much." It up to you and your family to decide how much debt you are willing to take on.

Also, make sure you take into account interest. A subsidized Stafford loan has no interest, so the amount you borrow is exactly the amount you will owe.

*5. My EFC is zero but my college still says I will owe some money. Why is that?*

Not all schools can afford to give you all the money you need. Unfortunately, it is common for a school to give you a financial aid package that does not cover all of your need. If you are very interested in the school you can always call them and advocate for more money, but there are no guarantees.

