



College — Bound

College Office
Room 316B

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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 seniors 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 school 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 Uva/ College Counselor



College of the Month: Cornell University

Ithaca, NY

Founded: 1865

Lists & Rankings:

- Best Northeastern Colleges
- Best Campus Food

- Best Career Placement Service
- Best College Library

Most Popular Majors:

- Agribusiness
- Biology
- Labor & Industrial Relations

Famous Alumni:

- Toni Morrison, *author*
- Janet Reno, *attorney general*
- Ruth Bader Ginsberg, *supreme court justice*
- Bill Nye, *science education advocate and host of "Bill Nye the Science Guy"*

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Important Dates in

February:

- Feb 10: Deadline to register for the March SATs
- Feb 21: SUNY Financial Aid Day
- Feb 27: Deadline to register for the April ACT

Spotlight on Health Careers: Audiologists



Audiologists assess and treat people with hearing disorders. Some audiologists perform research relating to hearing problems. The tasks of an audiologist include advising educators on speech, counseling clients in communication skills including sign language, administering speech/hearing evaluations or exams, and conducting prevention and treatment programs for clients' hearing and speech problems.

Audiologists must have a Bachelor's Degree and many also have a Master's Degree. Audiologists are likely

to major in Communication Disorders, Hearing Sciences, or Speech Pathology. Some colleges that offer these specialties are Emerson College in Boston, Northwestern University in Chicago, Pace University in New York, SUNY Geneseo, SUNY Fredonia, Syracuse University, and University of Massachusetts Amherst.

You would be likely to take classes such as Acoustics of Speech, Language Development, Psycholinguistics, and Speech Pathology.

To prepare for a career as an audiologist in high

school it is important to do well in science classes, as well as in Writing and English. You may also want to volunteer with people who have hearing disorders.

In New York State, the average salary for an entry level Audiologist is \$51,140 and for an experienced Audiologist it is \$82,000.

“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

Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program

For seniors in high school, based on SAT scores.

Apply at:
www.higherednysed.gov

Deadline: March 2, 2009

Barbara Mandigo Kelly Peace Poetry Award

Students must submit three original, unpublished poems in English.

Apply at: www.wagingpeace.org

Deadline: July 1, 2009

Writers of the Future

Contest

Students must submit an original work of science fiction or fantasy.

Apply at:
www.writersofthefuture.org/rules.htm

Deadline: March 31, 2009



SAT vs. 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.

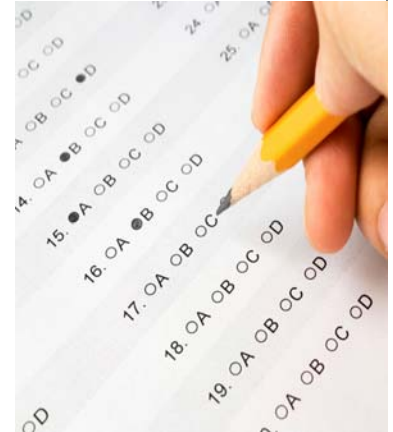
The SAT has 3 sections—Critical Reading, Math, and Writing. There are 3 sections in Critical Reading, for a total of 67 questions. There are 3 sections of Math for a total of 54 questions. For writing, there are 49 questions. You write one essay and answer 2 multiple choice grammar sections. The highest 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 and 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: Meal Plans

One big myth about college is that the food is terrible. The quality of meals on campus varies greatly from school to school.

According to Princeton Review, the colleges with the best food (as rated by the students) are Bowdoin College in Maine, Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering in Massachusetts, Saint Olaf College in Minnesota, Cornell University in

New York, Wheaton College in Illinois, James Madison University in Virginia, Colby College in Maine, Washington University of St. Louis, Virginia Tech, and Middlebury College in Vermont.

It is important to understand the different meal plans available to you. You usually have the option to either pay a flat rate for an unlimited plan in one dining hall, or to put money on your ID card and for it to be

subtracted as you buy food in various dining facilities.

Many schools also offer apartment style dorms with kitchens. Students who live in this way may not have a meal plan, but instead opt to shop and cook for themselves.



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**Queens Gateway
to Health Sciences
Secondary School**

Queens Gateway to Health Sciences Secondary School, established in 1994, is a 7-12 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 (like 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!

