

Planning Ahead

College Admissions and Standardized Testing for the
Fall 2020 semester...

Please note: This information is based on news available up to 5/4/20. It does not reflect any updates past this date and is subject to change in the next few weeks and months.

Status of Standardized Testing

Current Status of the SAT

- The SAT and SAT Subject Tests have been canceled for June 6, 2020.
- College Board is currently looking at providing weekend SAT administrations every month to the end of the calendar year, beginning in August.
- Current testing dates: August 29, September 26, October 3, November 7, and December 5

Registering for the SAT

- Registration for the new test dates will be available in May, beginning the week of May 26th. Students will be contacted directly.
- Students can register with early access for August, September, and October if they are already registered for June, or if they're in the high school class of 2021 and don't have SAT scores.
- If schools do not reopen in the fall, College Board will provide online exams to be completed at home.

Current State of the ACT

- The ACT is currently scheduled to offer exams as early as June and July. If those dates are canceled, makeup exams will be available for early June one week after their scheduled date.
- Fall/Winter test dates are still confirmed, with exams scheduled for September, October, and December.
- Remote proctoring options will be launched in late fall/early winter of 2020. These will be test-at-home alternatives available to all students.

Registration for the ACT

- Registration for the ACT can still be done through the ACT website. The earliest exam available is for June 13th, and registration ends on May 8th.
 - Students can change their test dates for free for the June and July national test dates.
- Students can also participate in the *ACT On-Campus* alternative for same-day scoring for specific colleges.
- New individual section retesting options will be offered in the fall for students that want to retake one portion of the exam.

College Applications

- Many colleges are now “test optional” for Fall 2021 Admissions. However, this does not mean that they are not accepting them. Some colleges still require SAT or ACT scores for placement purposes.
- Even if a school is test optional, SAT and ACT scores still bolster your student's application to these colleges.
- We strongly recommend registering for Summer/Fall test dates if:
 - Your student does not yet have a score for either test.
 - Your student has not yet achieved their best possible score. Super scoring is still an option for these applications.

College Applications

- Test flexible schools are different from test optional schools.
 - Test optional schools do not require scores to be sent, and instead look at other aspects of your application.
 - Test flexible schools allow you to submit other scores in place of SAT/ACT scores. These may include SAT Subject Tests, AP tests, etc.
- Unless a college labels themselves as score-blind, they still look at the scores your students submit!
- If standardized testing scores are not your strong suit, submit a resume that shows your strengths in other areas, such as GPA and personal essay.

Virtual Tours and Events

- Since most campuses are closed while the quarantine is in effect, colleges have begun to offer online tours and information sessions for students and parents to join.
 - Strive (strivescan.com) has been hosting free virtual presentations for juniors to attend. Admissions officers are present during these sessions with tips for the application process.
 - They have over 300+ presentations and 450+ colleges participating.
 - Many colleges are now hosting multiple virtual events and chats. These may be the best opportunity you have to speak directly to admissions officers and current students before applications begin.

Moving Forward into the
Fall 2020 Semester...

Planning for Fall 2020 Applications

- Any students part of the Class of 2021 should begin their college admissions process as soon as possible. The application process will vary with the recent changes, and it's important to be thorough and proactive.
- This summer should be used by students to increase test scores and boost their resumes. We recommend applying to more colleges than usual as the safest bet.
- Incoming Sophomores and Juniors should consider beginning SAT/ACT test prep before the new school year begins, while they still have time to focus outside of their usual classes and homework.

Test Prep & Subject Tutoring

- With the quarantine in effect, our tutors are currently offering remote Zoom or Skype sessions for all students. These are still one-on-one, personalized meetings meant to help students strengthen their learning and test-taking strategies.
 - Our test-prep professionals are available for all students, including those aiming to take the SAT or ACT in late summer to early winter. They can help your student reach their desired score and keep their testing skills strong.
 - Subject tutoring is available all year round, and can help solidify your student's understanding of course content that was disrupted by the quarantine or prepare them for their upcoming school year.

College Planning & Mentoring

- If you have not begun your college admissions process with us, we recommend reaching out to our team as soon as possible.
 - College admissions is more uncertain and complex than ever before due to the current daily changes. Therefore, the need for expert guidance is more essential for the most informed decision making for college choices and saving money. Application essays and personal resume of activities and interests, especially for 2020, will be especially important.
 - Professional guidance during these stressful, uncertain and constantly changing times will be essential for the best outcome of the student college application process.
 - We will review your current choices and keep you up-to-date on any changes that might be happening. We will also help refine your college searching for any additional schools you may be interested in.

Ideas for Summer

- Community Service/Volunteer Work
 - With social distancing still in effect, most volunteer work has shifted to activities and fundraising from home.
 - Local food banks, nursing homes, animal shelters, and relief organizations are all looking for support from people that are interested in reaching out to their communities on a virtual platform.
 - Students can also make face masks, cards, artwork, etc. to be sent to healthcare professionals and essential workers in their community.

Ideas for Summer

- Online Classes/Workshops
 - Many colleges are offering pre-college courses for students to take while still in high school. Check the websites of your top choices to find if they're hosting a class.
 - Students can expand their skill set with various workshops in the arts, writing, research, coding, music, etc.

- Mentorship
 - Many tutoring programs are being offered online for older students to help younger students with their coursework.
 - There are also peer-to-peer programs for students in the same grade.

Contact Us

Call us at **704-892-4533** for more information about our services or to schedule an appointment with our College Planning & Mentoring services.

We are available:

Monday - Thursday 8:00am-8:30pm

Friday 8:00am-6:00pm

Saturday 9:00am-2:00pm

Further Reading and Resources

- <https://www.commonapp.org/coronavirus>
- <https://www.nacacnet.org/news--publications/newsroom/college-admission-status-coronavirus/>
- <https://www.strivescan.com/virtual/>
- <https://collegeadmissionsstrategies.com/a-treasure-trove-of-ideas-for-high-school-students/>
- <https://www.themauleinstitute.com/40-resume-worthy-activities-you-can-do-from-your-living-room-sofa/>
- <https://ysa.org/covid/>
- <https://www.generationserve.org/helpingwhilehome.html>
- <https://teensgive.org/virtual/>
- <https://wearepasta.org/>