

# HIGH SCHOOL Academic Bulletin

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## Inside This Issue:

- Stay on Track .....2
- Community College...2
- College Admission Tests.....2
- Test Dates.....3
- College and a Career..3
- Summer School.....4
- Make the Most of Summer.....4
- College Prep: Action Plan.....5
- Choosing H.S. Activities Wisely .....6
- Scholarships .....6
- Find an Internship ....7
- Parents Role in Your College Application....7
- College Admissions Glossary.....8
- Interview Questions...9
- Scholarships .....10
- College Freshman Orientation.....11
- Recommended Reading for Parents of College-Bound Students .....11



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## Beware of Scholarship Scams

**F**raudulent scholarships can take many forms; some of the most common types are presented below. If you receive an offer that uses one of these tactics, be suspicious. If you believe the offer is a scam, report it. Sometimes a scam persists for years before people catch on to it. Even when people realize they've been cheated, few are stubborn enough to try to take advantage of guarantees or to file a complaint.

### Scholarships that Never Materialize

Many scams encourage you to send them money up front, but provide little or nothing in exchange. Usually victims write off the expense, thinking that they simply didn't win the scholarship.

### Scholarships for Profit

This scam looks just like a real scholarship program, but requires an application fee. The typical scam receives 5,000 to 10,000 applications and charges fees of \$5 to \$35. These scams can afford to pay out a \$1,000 scholarship or two and still pocket a hefty profit, if they happen to award any scholarships at all. Your odds of winning a scholarship from such scams are less than your chances of striking it rich in the lottery.

### The Advance-Fee Loan

This scam offers you an unusually low-interest educational loan, with the requirement that you pay a fee before you receive the loan. When you pay the money, the promised loan never materializes. Real educational loans deduct the fees from the disbursement check. They never require an up-front fee when you submit the application. If the loan is not issued by a bank or other recognized lender, it is probably a scam. Show the offer to your local bank manager to get their advice.

### The Scholarship Prize

This scam tells you that you've won a college scholarship worth thousands of dollars, but requires that you pay a "disbursement" or "redemption" fee or the taxes before they can release your prize. If someone says you've won a prize and you don't remember entering the contest or submitting an application, be suspicious.

In a common variation the sponsor sends the student a check for the scholarship, but requires the recipient to send back a check for the taxes or some other fees. Or the sponsor sends a check for more than the scholarship amount and asks the recipient to send back a check for the difference. The scholarship check ultimately bounces, as it is a forgery, but by then the recipients's funds are long gone.

### The Guaranteed Scholarship Search Service

Beware of scholarship matching services that guarantee you'll win a scholarship or they'll refund your money. They may simply pocket your money and disappear, or if they do send you a report of matching scholarships, you'll find it extremely difficult to qualify for a refund.



# Stay on Track with Your High Schooler



As your children grow older and become more independent, your involvement is most valuable during this transitional time in their lives. Look for “red flags” to see if your child may be in trouble, such as:

- Changes in friendships
- No future goals — child isn’t thinking about the future
- Avoiding sharing grades
- Poor school attendance
- Isolated, not involved in extracurricular activities

To help your child:

- Learn to listen.
- Talk to school counselors and teachers.
- Attend parent workshops and parent groups.
- Get progress reports. (Parents can request this.)

Provide study time. Set aside time every day to study. There should be no distractions, including TV, computer games, texting, etc. If there is no homework, then student should spend that time reading or enjoying some kind of educational activity.

## BEWARE OF SCHOLARSHIP SCAMS

*(Continued from page 1)*

### Investment Required for Federal Loans

Insurance companies and brokerage firms sometimes offer free financial aid seminars that are actually sales pitches for insurance, annuity and investment products. When a sales pitch implies that purchasing such a product is a prerequisite to receiving federal student aid, it violates federal regulations and state insurance laws.

### Free Seminar

You may receive a letter advertising a free financial aid seminar or “interviews” for financial assistance. Sometimes the seminars do provide some useful information, but often they are cleverly disguised sales pitches for financial aid consulting services (e.g., maximize your eligibility for financial aid), investment products, scholarship matching services and overpriced student loans.

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

### Rules of Thumb

1. If you must pay money to get money, it might be a scam.
2. If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.
3. Spend the time, not the money.
4. Never invest more than a postage stamp to get information about scholarships.
5. Nobody can guarantee that you’ll win a scholarship.
6. Legitimate scholarship foundations do not charge application fees.
7. If you’re suspicious of an offer, it’s usually with good reason.

## Are you planning on attending a local community college?

Orange County has several choices of community colleges. Research them online or call for information.

**Orange Coast College**  
714-432-5072  
[www.orangecoastcollege.edu](http://www.orangecoastcollege.edu)

**Irvine Valley College**  
949-451-5461  
[www.ivc.edu](http://www.ivc.edu)

**Santa Ana College**  
714-564-6015  
[www.sac.edu](http://www.sac.edu)

**Santiago Canyon College**  
714-628-4901  
[www.sccollege.edu](http://www.sccollege.edu)

**Saddleback College**  
949-582-4555  
[www.saddleback.edu](http://www.saddleback.edu)



## College Admission Tests: What, When, Why

	SAT	SAT Subject Tests	ACT
Why you should take it	Required for admission by the majority of U.S. colleges. Often used to award scholarships and grants.	Most selective colleges require one to three SAT Subject Tests. University of California schools weigh Subject Tests equally with the SAT.	Accepted by virtually all colleges as an alternative to the SAT.
When to take it	Fall, winter, or spring of junior year; fall of senior year. Know your college application details.	Math in junior year or fall of senior year. All other Subject Tests right after you finish taking the related subject in school in your sophomore or junior year.	Fall, winter, or spring of junior year; fall of senior year. Know your college application deadline.
Good to know	You can take it more than once, but all of your scores will be reported to colleges.	Of the colleges that require these tests, most want you to take the Math Subject Tests plus two to three subjects of your choosing.	You can take it more than once and choose which scores get sent to colleges.

## Important Test Dates and Registration Deadlines for the 2008-2009 School Year

### SAT & Subject Tests Dates

2008-09 TEST DATES

June 6, 2009

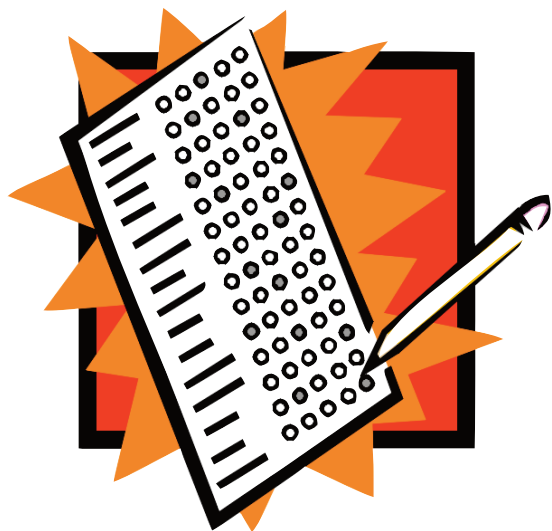
REG. DEADLINE

May 5, 2009

LATE REG. (Late Fee Req.)

May 15, 2009

Register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to sign up for tests.



### ACT Test Dates

2008-09 TEST DATES

June 13, 2009

REG. DEADLINE

May 8, 2009

LATE REG. (Late Fee Req.)

May 9 – 22, 2009

Register online at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) to sign up for tests.

# It is Never too Early to Start Thinking About College and a Career.

*By Sherry Friend, Career Guidance Technician/ROP Career Specialist*

**D**o you have a favorite activity? Are you artistic? Would you like to travel? Is working on engines your hobby? Are you inquisitive and like detail? Does helping others make you feel great? All of these are wonderful attributes! Answering these questions can help you choose a college major and ultimately guide you on a life-long career path.



One way to discover your direction while you're in high school would be to take an ROP class that fits your personality and interests. Your favorite activity could be explored by enrolling in Professional Dance, Interior Design, Broadcast Journalism, or Culinary Arts.

If you dream of traveling, try the Hotel and Tourism internship, Culinary Arts class (work on a cruise ship), or a Broadcast Journalism class. All of these would offer you a career with travel.

Do you see yourself owning an auto repair shop, working for Mercedes Benz or designing automobiles? Then the Automotive Technology classes will start you down the right pathway, especially if you take an Entrepreneurship class to learn how to manage your own business. Students who take the Computer-Aided Drafting class could go on to architecture, and design the next generation of cars.

If you are artistic, Computer Graphics, Interior Design, Visual Imagery (digital photography) Video Game Design, or Web Site Development would help you expand your knowledge and enjoyment. Video Game Design is one of the newest college majors, much to the surprise of many parents.

People who are inquisitive and like details might want to enroll in Crime Scene Investigation, Banking/Financial Services Internship or any of the computer classes. Business internships and computer classes will help those interested in majoring in any area of business. Those of you who enjoy helping others would fit right in taking the First Responder, Nursing Assistant, Sports Medicine or even Animal Health Care Internship classes. High school is a great time to explore the various medical fields.

All of these classes lead directly to college majors. Colleges consider a ROP class as research in an area that you are considering for your college major. Colleges look favorably on a student who shows early interest in a career.

All ROP classes are electives and fall under the Applied Arts requirements for high school graduation. Remember that the UC system recognizes Computer Graphics and Visual Imagery as a Visual and Performing Arts required high school course.

To sign up for these or many other ROP classes that are available please go to the Career Center on your high school campus.

# Summer School: It's Not What You Think



**T**hese days, there are summer schools for just about every type of student, whether you'd like to work on academic subjects or developing skills such as playing an instrument or sport.

## Pursue Your Interests

Use a summer program to develop a talent or interest in the arts, humanities, or sciences. For example, the California State Summer School for the Arts, held on the campus of the California Institute for the Arts (CalArts) in Valencia, has programs in film and video, creative writing, visual arts, animation, dance, music, and theater.

Meanwhile, the Michigan Tech Summer Youth Program allows you to participate in week-long "Explorations" in engineering, math, science and technology, ecology, outdoor adventure, and a variety of social sciences and humanities areas.

To stay closer to home, check out your local performing arts centers, science museums, and parks; many have summer programs where you can get hands-on experience, ranging from set design to environmental education.

## Gain Experience Outside of the Classroom

Summer school programs often involve a lot more hands-on learning than you'll find in your regular classes. Many residential summer school programs include sports, travel, and social activities in their curricula. Personal development and leadership skills are also major themes.

## Improve Your High School Transcript

Attending a challenging summer school program can increase your chances of getting into a competitive college. In fact, some summer school programs are as competitive as colleges, requiring an extensive application complete with SAT or PSAT scores, teacher recommendations, and a personal essay.

While attendance at a high-powered summer school does not guarantee that you will get into an Ivy League school, it does add a certain luster to your college applications. Nonetheless, a cutting-edge internship or a job that requires responsibility and leadership can look just as good on your college applications.

## Try Your Hand at Real College Work

If you're craving more in-depth study of a subject you're interested in, and high school classes leave you wanting more, college-level classes may be the answer. Or, if you simply want to explore a particular school, or experience college classes, it's a great preview.

Most colleges welcome anyone who wants to learn into their normal college-level classes. Of course, they give priority to students who are enrolled full time. Call the colleges on your wish list and ask if they have a summer semester and request a catalog. If you are motivated and able, it's also possible to enroll in college classes during your normal school year. But make sure the extra workload won't interfere with your high school work.

# Make the Most of Your Summer

**S**ummer break is a perfect opportunity to gain experience through paid or volunteer jobs, internships, and other summer activities — pursuits that can also demonstrate a sense of responsibility to college admissions officers. How can you choose the most rewarding summer activities?

One of the best ways to find opportunities is simply by asking people you know — networking. Start with your parents, friends, relatives, teachers and counselors for suggestions and ideas. If you've already got something in mind, share it with them — they may have suggestions you haven't thought of, and may know people you can contact for leads.

Below are some suggestions to assist in your summer planning:

## 1. Follow a passion

If you could do anything this summer, what would it be? For example, if you enjoy the outdoors and hiking, you could look into working at a summer camp or getting a job at a national park.

## 2. Get a taste of a future career

Try your hand at experiencing the career you hope to pursue. You can start by calling businesses and organizations related to your chosen field about summer jobs or internships. Professionals in any career often go out of their way to help a motivated student, so even if they're not hiring they may have suggestions.

## 3. Create an internship

During a job search, you may come across a potential employer — someone who inspires you or to whom you'd love to apprentice — who just can't afford to hire you. One option is to offer to work for free. The job skills gained may be worth their weight in gold.

## 4. Create a business

If you are motivated and mature, you may find it rewarding to start your own small business. For example, bilingual student might advertise services as a language tutor, or a student with a green thumb could work as an independent landscaper.

## 5. Think outside the box

Doing something constructive with summer vacation doesn't necessarily mean having a traditional job. If you are a student who is really into performing or excels in sports, you may want to devote your full-time energy to formally developing these skills. Look into special programs or summer college classes open to high school students.

## 6. Volunteer

Spending a summer pitching in at a local charity is a great way for you to learn about life and yourself. It can help you develop leadership skills that will last a lifetime.



## 7. Summer school

Consider enrolling in an academic course at a local college or joining a college exploratory program at a school you are interested in attending. Several colleges offer summer programs that expose students to specific fields of study.

## 8. Read! Read! Read!

Whatever you decide to do this summer — work, volunteer, intern, or study — make sure you read. Reading opens your mind and introduces you to other worlds, while sharpening important skills such as comprehension and vocabulary. Before school lets out, challenge yourself to generate a list of summer reading based on recommendations from your parents and teachers.

# College Prep: Action Plan



## Freshmen and Sophomores

### Stay Focused

- Sign up for college prep classes. Consider AP classes.
- Study for May AP Exams. Get free AP prep at: [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/prep.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/prep.html)

### Explore Summer Opportunities

- Look for great summer opportunities now — apply for a job, volunteer program or internship position.
- Check with your counselor and search online for summer school programs for high school students at colleges.
- Start a summer reading list. Ask your teachers to recommend books.
- Plan to visit college campuses to get a feel for your options. Start with colleges near you.

## Juniors

### Get Ready for the SAT

- Visit the SAT Preparation Center at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to take a free full-length official practice test and get a score and skills report. Be sure to sign up for the SAT Question of the Day for daily practice. Study for SAT tests.

### Explore Colleges

- Start visiting local colleges: large, small, public, and private. Get a feel for what works for you. Develop a list of 15-20 colleges that interest you.
- You can search for colleges and do comparisons at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

### Prepare for AP Exams

- Do well on AP Exams and receive credit or placement at most colleges. Get AP Exam preparation at [www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/prep.html](http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/ap/prep.html)

### Plan Ahead for the Summer & Senior Year

- Get a jump start on summer activities. Consider enrolling in an academic course at a local college, pursuing a summer school program, applying for an internship, working, or volunteering. If you work, save part of your earnings for college.
- Begin visiting colleges. Phone to set up appointments for interviews. Many colleges will tell you they are optional, but an interview will show interest, enthusiasm and initiative on your part and provide an excellent opportunity to have your questions answered. Do a practice interview with your counselor, teacher, employer, or a senior who has had college interviews. Set up interviews as early as possible. They become booked quickly.

## Seniors

### When the Letters Start Rolling In

- You should get acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. Use the Compare Your Aid Awards tool to see a side-by-side comparison of aid awards at [http://apps.collegeboard.com/fincalc/compare\\_aid.jsp](http://apps.collegeboard.com/fincalc/compare_aid.jsp).
- Questions? Talk to financial aid officers. Not enough aid? Ask if other financing plans are available.
- If full financial need has not been met, or if your family's financial circumstances have changed, consider appealing the aid award.
- If you haven't already, visit your final college before accepting.

### May 1: Making Your Final Choice

- You must tell every college of your acceptance or rejection of offers of admission or financial aid by May 1.
- Send a deposit to the college you choose.
- Wait-listed? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask if funds will be available if you're accepted.

### Student Aid Report

- Look for your Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail. Your SAR contains federal financial aid information.
- Submit your SAR and tax forms to the financial aid office if requested to do so. Contact each office to make certain that your application is complete. Find out what else you need to do to establish and maintain your eligibility for financial aid.
- Keep copies of all the forms you submit to the financial aid office.
- If you have not received your SAR four weeks after submitting your FASFA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (800) 433-3243.

### AP Exams

- Study hard for the Advanced Placement examinations, if appropriate, and request that your AP scores be sent to the college you will attend. This is your last big push before the end of the year.
- If your first-choice college placed you on their waiting list, do not lose all hope. Some students are admitted off the waiting list. Talk with your counselor, and contact the college to let them know you are still very interested. Keep the college updated on your activities.
- Be proud — you have completed a difficult task!

## **Avoid the Laundry List: Choosing High School Activities Wisely**

By Jennifer Gross

**Y**ou hear it from your friends, your relatives, and even from the media: what you do now (whether you're 5 or 15 years old) can affect your chances of getting into college. There's some truth to this. Colleges do look at your academic record from ninth grade on.

But this philosophy can steer you in the wrong direction when it comes to choosing extracurricular activities. Ambitious students may be tempted to choose their activities based on what might look good on a college application. Okay, oboe players may be more rare than pianists, but learning the oboe when you'd rather be throwing the football makes your extracurricular activities seem like the hardest, most boring homework ever.

### **What Doesn't Matter**

Here's the secret: colleges don't care what activities you choose. A well-rounded college class (which is the goal of all admissions offices) includes both accomplished musicians and talented athletes, along with yearbook editors, chess players, student-body leaders, artists, volunteers, computer enthusiasts, and a host of other interesting people.

High school is a good time to figure out your interests and abilities, and then get involved with activities that use those talents. You'll naturally want to spend more time on things that interest you. And that's what colleges look for: students who demonstrate long-term involvement and commitment to a few activities.

"College admission people are looking for kids with a passionate involvement in something," says Josie Collier, a counselor at Frank W. Cox High School (VA). "The 'what' doesn't seem to matter."

### **Depth vs. Breadth**

Don't look to fill up that activities space on a college application with the names of 15 different clubs and activities. Here's a good rule of thumb: as you get farther along in your high school years, your number of activities should go down, not up.

Why? Younger students (high school freshman and sophomores) need to try different activities to figure out what they're interested in. By junior year, many students know what they most enjoy. Then, they can concentrate on contributing more of their time to their favorite activities and less time (or none at all) to activities they don't particularly enjoy.

But just spending more time hanging out in the band room or locker room isn't the goal.

"Colleges want students who have shown long-term, in-depth interest and true talent in extracurricular activities," says Scott White, guidance counselor at Montclair High School (NJ).

That means taking on more responsibility and leadership roles in your area of interest. If you're a musician, for example, you may want to try out for county or state band, volunteer for section leader, or help give music lessons for beginners. If community service is your passion, you might start as a weekly volunteer at the food bank, then help plan a fund-raising event, and end up as a member of the organization's planning committee. You don't have to be president of your high school class to demonstrate leadership ability (although that's good, too!). Colleges, and the

"real world", need leaders in every field of interest, from astrophysics to zoology.

### **The Balancing Act**

Of course, extracurricular activities should never get in the way of your schoolwork. (Yes, sometimes your mom actually does have a point.) College admission officers look at your grades and courses first. Activities often come in a distant second or third in admission decisions (unless you're the number one high school running back in the country or the first teenage author recommended by Oprah).

So take a look at your schedule. Where are you spending your time and energy? If you're stressed out, or feel like you have too much to do, you may need to cut out an activity that no longer means that much to you. Or you may need to improve your time management skills (which will come in handy in college, too).

Real balance is spending the most time on the things that are most important to you and your future.

## **Scholarships**

Search online for scholarships that best suit your personal criteria.

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)  
[www.scholarships4Student.com](http://www.scholarships4Student.com)  
[www.gocollege.com](http://www.gocollege.com)  
[www.scholarships101.com](http://www.scholarships101.com)  
[www.srnexpress.com](http://www.srnexpress.com)  
[www.embarc.com](http://www.embarc.com)  
[www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)  
[www.scholarshipproviders.org](http://www.scholarshipproviders.org)  
[www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)  
[www.studentCenter.ja.org](http://www.studentCenter.ja.org)  
[www.scholarshipExperts.com](http://www.scholarshipExperts.com)



## **Use the upcoming summer to organize for college**

- Request college applications and financial aid information. Organize all college materials into separate files by college.
- Keep a college calendar of all admissions and financial aid deadlines.
- Start to research scholarships online. Find out if your parents' employers offer scholarships or tuition reimbursement. Check with all the organizations and associations to which you and your parents belong.
- If you have questions about how financial aid eligibility is determined, a good source of information is Meeting College Costs, available online at the College Board store at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).
- Visit colleges. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, schedule interviews with admissions counselors.

# HOW TO FIND AN INTERNSHIP

## Not Just Any Internship — One That Fits Your Needs

Internships come in all shapes and sizes. Some are paid and some are unpaid. Some last for a summer while others continue through the school year. Some internships are local, but others offer employment abroad. For example, you could help set up video shoots for a local film company, or you could work on an organic banana farm in Costa Rica.

Many people think internships are for college students, but opportunities for high school students exist as well. A high school internship can open the doors to the working world, showing you what it's like to have a boss, attend meetings, and meet deadlines. Internships also introduce you to experienced people who can help guide you toward a career.

### How to Start Your Search

How do you find the right internship for you? Start by answering these questions:

What interests you? Do you like photography? Flying? Computers?

Do you want to work during the summer or the school year? Do you need to earn money or could you work for free?

What do you want out of an internship? If you're interested in the legal field, your search should start with law firms, not banana farms.

### Use a Variety of Resources

Many resources exist for finding internships. Employers often advertise internship positions through schools. Ask your high school counselor or career coordinator about these opportunities. You might also find out about internships through a school club. And don't forget family and friends. You may want to know more about the accounting field, and your friend's accountant mom might welcome your help.

If there's a specific company or organization you'd like to work for, don't be afraid to inquire directly. Even if they've never had an intern, you might be able to convince them they need one by being clear about how you could help.

To cast your net even wider, look for recent internship guidebooks. *Peterson's Internships* lists hundreds of opportunities for high school students. *The Best 109 Internships* and *The Internship Bible* also list high school positions. More specific guides can help you find internships in the arts or those available to minorities. Many libraries have a career or education center that can help.



The Internet also provides a wealth of resources. Helpful sites include:

[www.internshipprograms.com](http://www.internshipprograms.com)

[www.internabroad.com](http://www.internabroad.com)

[www.idealists.org](http://www.idealists.org) allows you to search for internships at nonprofits such as environmental groups

[www.volunteerinternational.org](http://www.volunteerinternational.org) lists volunteer opportunities abroad.

### Evaluate Opportunities

To make sure you get the most out of your internship, ask lots of questions. Find out exactly what your duties will be, and who will help teach you the skills you want to learn. You can even ask to speak to previous interns about their experiences. All this preparation will ensure the internship you land is right for you.

Every student should try going outside their boundaries, outside their neighborhood, do something they've never done before. Build relationships with those who can teach new skills. Find someone to learn from. That way, no matter what you do, your internship will be worthwhile.

### REAL DEAL: Local Newspaper

Kristen wasn't sure she wanted to be a journalist. She liked writing for her high school newspaper, and the field seemed exciting, but she didn't know much about it. To help make up her mind, Kristen landed an internship at the local newspaper through her high school business club. Her job was to help out in the office, but she also convinced the editor to let her do some reporting.

To her surprise, the editor gave her an assignment right away: report on Friday's high school football game. Kristen wasn't really interested in football, so she spent the game interviewing parents of players. When she typed up her story, she realized she didn't even know the final score! That taught her to make sure she got all the facts, and during her junior and senior years, Kristen covered everything from rodeos to a local burglary.

As an intern in the office, she processed subscription checks, wrote classified ads, and worked in the press room stuffing advertising inserts into newspapers. She learned every aspect of the newspaper business and decided to major in journalism in college.

## What part should my parents play in my college application?

Parental involvement in the college admissions process varies from family to family, and is sometimes a point of conflict. At the very least, your parents will have to fill out financial aid forms so that your application process can be completed. Parents can perform other valuable tasks for your application that might not be so obvious.

Some colleges allow for a so-called optional recommendation. This provides parents with an opportunity to tell why their son or daughter is so special. You may wonder why a college admissions officer would want to read an obviously biased letter from a parent. The reason lies in the letter's anecdotal information.

Anecdotal information consists of stories about the candidate drawn from real life. If a parent is capable of writing in simple, clear terms, the optional reference is a splendid opportunity to bring little-known information to the attention of the admission staff. Few items in the application will make an impression like a sincere statement from a mother or father. Obviously, if the student's grades and other qualifications don't make the cut, a parental good word will not by itself turn the tide of admission.

Another function parents can perform is application management. Most high school seniors have a lot going on at any given point in the school year. If a parent is good at meeting deadlines and can follow up on details, application management can be a worthwhile contribution to the process. This amounts to becoming familiar with what is required by the school for a completed application.

This information is usually provided at the front of the application package. All deadlines for the various forms are noted. Parents can then make certain that the applicant is working on the proper form at the proper time. This is a very important task and can help avoid embarrassing oversights and late submissions.

Include your parents in your application process — don't exclude them. The more you can work together as a team now, the better things will be whenever you head off in the fall for your first year of college.

[www.collegeconfidential.com](http://www.collegeconfidential.com)

# College Admissions Glossary

By Kay Peterson, Ph.D.

**Acceptance Form:** This form documents the student's receipt of an award letter. The form usually includes a space to indicate acceptance of offered aid, declination of all or part of the package and some means for requesting an appeal to modify the award. Acceptance letters and award letters are frequently combined into a single document.

**Admit-Deny:** Some schools will admit marginal students, but not award them any financial aid. Very few schools use admit-deny because studies have shown that lack of sufficient financial aid is a key factor in the performance of marginal students.

**Associate Degree:** A degree which is granted to a student who has completed a two-year program (64-66 credits) and is equivalent to the first two years of study for a Bachelor degree. An Associate degree may be further specified as an Associate of Arts (AA) (granted to students who have completed a two-year program in liberal arts) or an Associate of Science (AS) (granted to students who have completed a two-year program in the sciences).

**Associate of Applied Science (AAS):** A degree that is granted to students who have completed a technology or vocational program. It is generally considered a terminal degree as it prepares students for immediate employment upon graduation. In some cases, the credits earned while completing an AAS can be transferred to a Bachelor degree, but only when specified by the school or program in question.

**Award Letter:** The form which notifies the student that financial aid is being offered. The award letter usually provides information about the types and amounts of aid offered, as well as specific program information, student responsibilities and the conditions which govern the award. The Award Letter often includes an Acceptance Form.

**Bachelor or Baccalaureate Degree:** A degree which is granted to a student who has completed a four-year program (120-128 credits). The most common types of Bachelor degree programs include the Bachelor of Arts (BA) (for students of liberal arts) and the Bachelor of Sciences (BS) (for students of science).

**Campus-Based Programs:** The term commonly applied to those U.S. Department of Education federal student aid programs administered directly by institutions of postsecondary education. Includes: Federal Perkins Loan, Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) and Federal Work-Study (FWS) programs.

**Commuter Student:** A student who does not live on campus; typically "commuter" refers to a student living at home with his or her parents, but can also mean any student who lives off-campus.

**Cooperative Education:** In a cooperative education program, the student spends some time engaged in employment related to their major in addition to regular classroom study.

**Credit (or Credit Hour):** The unit of measurement some institutions give for fulfilling course requirements.

**Early Action:** An early action program has earlier deadlines and earlier notification dates than the regular admissions process. Unlike the Early Decision program, the early action program does not require that a student commit to attending the school if admitted.

**Early Admission:** Procedure used by colleges which allows gifted high-school juniors to skip their senior year and enroll instead in college. The term "Early Admission" is sometimes used to refer collectively to Early Action and Early Decision programs.

**Early Decision:** Some colleges offer the option of an early decision to students who meet all entrance requirements, are certain of the college they wish to attend and are likely to be accepted by that college. Students participate in the Early Decision plan by indicating their desire to participate on their college application. The decision regarding admission is made by mid-December of the student's senior year in high school, as opposed to the regular admissions notification of mid-April. A drawback of the Early Decision program is that students will have to commit to a school before they find out about the financial aid packet. A student can apply early decision to only one school.

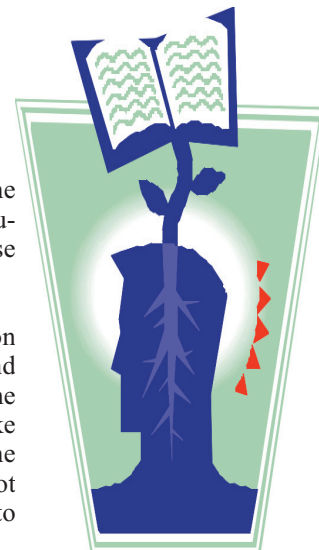
**Open Admissions:** Students are admitted regardless of academic qualifications. The school may require an additional probationary period during which the student must earn satisfactory grades to ensure continued enrollment.

**Out-of-State Student:** This term generally applies to students applying to a public college or university. Tuition rates are lower for state residents; out-of-state students must pay a higher rate of tuition until they have established the legal residency requirements for the state.

**Remediation:** Students who are not fully prepared for college academically are often required to complete remedial classes. The courses are designed to bring the student up to the level required for satisfactory college-level performances. Such courses are usually not granted credit towards graduation.

**Rolling Admissions:** Students' applications are considered when all required credentials have been submitted. There is either no deadline or a very late deadline; qualified students are accepted until classes are filled. Applicants are notified of admission continuously throughout the enrollment period.

**Selective Admissions:** Admissions procedure used by colleges and universities, where additional standards and criteria are required. Usually for specific programs or departments.



# Five Common Interview Questions (and How to Answer Them)

By Bridget Kulla

A college admissions interview doesn't have to be a nerve-racking experience. You'll make the best impression if you're relaxed. Get comfortable with some typical interview questions before you sit down for a face-to-face with the admissions interviewer and ease your anxiety. Practice what to say to these common interview questions.



## 1. Why Do You Want to Attend this School?

Colleges look for students who will be a good match for their school. Your interviewer wants to see a genuine interest in the college. "There's always going to be a question 'Why do you want to come to our school?' so you really have to know the school," says Bev Taylor, an independent college counselor and director of the Ivy Coach. Spend time before the interview thinking about why that college would be a good match for you. "It's important to talk about yourself. Students need to do their homework before an interview. Find out what it is about themselves that can make them happy at that college," Taylor says.

## 2. What book have you read in the last year that has special meaning to you and why?

This interview question frequently comes up and is an easy one to prepare an answer to. Try not to pick a book that you were assigned to read for class, but if you do, try not to mention that it was an assignment. "Know about a book and don't just stop at the name of the book and the author. Know something about the book and something that you enjoyed about that book ... You have to know the answer to this one," Taylor says. Use this opportunity to share something about yourself. Talk about why the book had special meaning for you and try to reveal your interests and personality in the process.

## 3. How will you contribute to this campus?

This question comes in different forms including, "In what ways have you contributed to your high school?," "How will you be a valuable addition to the college?" Before the interview, pick a few positive adjectives that describe you and explain why. Then turn that into the

answer to any of these questions. For example, "I'm very self-motivated. If I see that something needs to be done, I take it upon myself to do it. In my high school glee club, for instance ..." An answer like this will work for more than one type of question. "Don't just give the three adjectives though. Pretend you were thrown a ball and now you have to run with the ball. Relax and answer the question, but give more than just the answers," Taylor says.

## 4. What are your academic interests?

You don't have to know what you'll major in, but be able to explain your academic interests, why they interest you, and how you can pursue those interests at their college. Colleges are looking for students who are excited about learning, not students who feel they need to get a college degree but aren't sure why.

## 5. Do you have any questions?

"That's going to come up at the end, guaranteed. Too often students will say, 'I think you've answered them all. That's probably the worst answer you can give. You need to have some questions,'" Taylor says. Asking your interviewer questions shows them that you've spent time thinking about their school. It's okay to bring a list of questions you wrote beforehand.

Ask the right sorts of questions. Don't ask something that can easily be found on the school's Web site. Show you've done some research. Ask questions that relate to your interests, not just general questions. You also don't want to ask a question that will put their school in a negative light. Instead of asking a yes or no question like, "Are research opportunities available to freshmen?" ask a more open-ended question like, "How can a freshman get involved in research?"

No matter what questions you're asked in your interview, think of the interview as a conversation. Relax and act like yourself. It's important to anticipate what questions you'll be asked and prepare answers. Don't just recite the answers you prepare, but take time to think them over and sound natural.

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)



# SCHOLARSHIPS

Below are just a few scholarships currently available. Visit Web sites for complete details and eligibility.  
For additional opportunities, search online for scholarships that best suit your personal criteria.

## A GPA Isn't Everything Scholarship

Provided by: Cappex.com  
Deadline: July 31, 2009  
Amount: \$1,000, 1 award  
Web site: [www.cappex.com/scholarships/GPAisntEverythingScholarship](http://www.cappex.com/scholarships/GPAisntEverythingScholarship)

Description: This scholarship is available to students planning to attend college. You must demonstrate a strong record of extracurricular, leadership and/or volunteer activities to be eligible for this award.

## Apple Scholars

Provided by: Apple Computer  
Deadline: May 30  
Amount: \$2,000, 10 awards  
Web site:

[www.apple.com/education/students/scholars/](http://www.apple.com/education/students/scholars/)  
Description: The Apple scholarships will be awarded to ten seniors for innovative use of technology in their schoolwork. Winners also receive a MacBook Pro and iPod nano.

## Apprentice Ecologist Initiative Scholarship

Provided by: Nicodemus Wilderness Project  
Deadline: December 31, 2009  
Amount: \$500  
Web site: [www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer\\_apprentice\\_ecologist](http://www.wildernessproject.org/volunteer_apprentice_ecologist)

Description: This scholarship is open to young people interested in the environment. The initiative seeks to elevate young people into leadership roles by engaging them in environmental cleanup projects, empower volunteers to rebuild the environmental and social well-being of our communities, and improve local living conditions for both citizens and wildlife. A \$500 scholarship will be awarded annually to the author of the top Apprentice Ecologist essay.

## Atlas Shrugged Essay Contest

Provided by: Ayn Rand Institute  
Deadline: September 17, 2009  
Amount varies: \$50 - \$10,000, 49 awards  
Web site: [www.aynrand.org/contests/](http://www.aynrand.org/contests/)  
Description: The Atlas Shrugged Essay Contest is open to college/university and 12th grade students. To be eligible for this contest, you must write an essay of no fewer than 800 and no more than 1,600 words in length, double-spaced, on a topic related to Ayn Rand's novel, "Atlas Shrugged." Essays are judged on both style and content. The winning essay must demonstrate an outstanding grasp of the philosophic meaning of the book "Atlas Shrugged."

## Clements International's Expat Youth Scholarship: "Life in a Flying House"

Provided by: Clements International  
Deadline: May 15, 2009  
Amount varies: up to \$3,000, 6 awards  
Web site: [www.expatyouthscholarship.com](http://www.expatyouthscholarship.com)  
Description: The "Life in a Flying House" essay and creative media contest offers participants a chance to share their experience living in a foreign country through a combination of words and images. Using the theme "Life in a Flying House," participants should describe how their lives have been affected by living as an expatriate.

## Charles Lopinsky Memorial Scholarship

Provided by: The Project Management Institute  
Orange County Chapter  
Deadline: June 1, 2009  
Amount: up to \$1,000, 1 award  
Web site: [www.pmi.org/pmief/scholarship](http://www.pmi.org/pmief/scholarship)

The Scholarship is open to students who are Orange County residents and pursuing a degree in project management. The scholarships are based on merit, measured by academic performance and extracurricular activities.

## Cutting-Edge Careers Scholarship

Provided by: Cappex.com  
Deadline: July 31, 2009  
Amount: \$1,000, 1 award  
Web site: [www.cappex.com/scholarships/cuttingEdgeCareersScholarship](http://www.cappex.com/scholarships/cuttingEdgeCareersScholarship)

Description: This scholarship is available to students planning to attend college. You must be a US citizen and a high school student, GED recipient or current college student. You must plan to study to gain skills in business administration, computers, criminal justice, health care/nursing, design, digital media arts, or culinary arts to be eligible for this award.

## Safety Scholars Video Contest by Bridgestone

Provided by: Bridgestone  
Deadline: June 17, 2009  
Amount varies: up to \$5,000, 3 awards  
Web site: [www.safetyscholars.com](http://www.safetyscholars.com)  
Description: As part of its ongoing commitment to automotive safety education and due to the incredible popularity and success of the program, it is launching its third annual Safety Scholars Video Contest. Targeted to young drivers ages 16-21, Safety Scholars is a contest in which entrants create short auto safety-themed videos. This year, another topic – automotive environmentalism – has been made available to entrants, extending the message of the Bridgestone Group's "One Team, One Planet" global environmental initiative. Submitted videos must be 25 or 55 seconds in length. The first 300 entries will be accepted May 27 – June 17 at [safetyscholars.com](http://safetyscholars.com).

## Show Your Stuff - General Fresh-Brain Scholarship

Provided by: FreshBrain  
Deadline: May 31  
Amounts: 1 award for \$2,500  
2 awards for \$1,500  
Web site: [www.freshbrain.org](http://www.freshbrain.org)

Description: This scholarship is open to students aged 13 to 18 who will be or are currently enrolled in middle, high school or college and in good standing. To be eligible for this award, you must submit something that you created with technology. Creations must be related to the following areas from the FreshBrain Web site: development, eco/green, gaming, graphic design, music, video/movies, web, and venture. Judging will be based on the uploads and updates to the project. Entries will be evaluated on: creativity, use of technology, difficulty, approach or process, age appropriateness (teens).

## Siemens Competition

Provided by: Siemens Competition  
Deadline: October 01, 2009  
Amount varies: \$1,000 - \$10,000  
Web site: [www.collegeboard.com/siemens](http://www.collegeboard.com/siemens)

Description: The Siemens Competition is comprised of an individual competition and a team competition. The individual competition is open to high school seniors who will graduate with the class of 2010. The team competition consists of two to three members from any level in high school. Individual and team entries will receive separate awards. You must submit a research project in science, mathematics, engineering, technology, or any combinations of these disciplines.

## Stuck at Prom Contest

Provided by: Henkel Consumer Adhesives  
Deadline: June 8, 2009  
Amount varies: \$1,000 - \$3,000, 3 awards  
Web site: [www.stuckatprom.com](http://www.stuckatprom.com)  
Description: Available to students age 14 years or older who are attending a high school prom in the spring of 2009. You must enter as a couple (two individuals) and attend a high school prom wearing complete attire or accessories made from duct tape. Each couple must submit a color photograph of the two of you together in prom attire.



## College Freshmen Orientation

To make the transition from high school to college a little bit easier, most colleges have freshmen orientation. This is when students can meet other classmates, learn about campus life, and ask any questions they may have before the semester starts. Many colleges require entering freshmen to attend orientation, but if you are going to a college where it is not required, you may be wondering if attending orientation will be a waste of time. Before you make the decision not to go, consider the following points on why freshmen orientation will be beneficial to you.

- You can make friends before the semester starts.
- You will know your way around the campus by fall semester.
- You will know about various campus activities.
- You will receive help with class registration. You can sit in on college classes.
- You can experience dorm life.
- You can take care of any unfinished business.
- You can learn about campus security and what to do if you find yourself in trouble.
- You will meet faculty members and deans.



## Recommended Reading for Parents of College-Bound Students

Admission counselors, high school counselors, and other educational professionals recommend the following books for parents of college-bound students:

- *Letting Go: A Parent's Guide to Understanding the College Years* by Karen Levin Coburn and Madge Lawrence Treeger. This book was written by a college dean and a psychotherapist.
- *When Your Kid Goes To College* by Carol Barkin. The author decided to write the book after sending her son off to college. She interviewed parents around the country to get their perspectives on the college transition.
- *Almost Grown: Launching Your Child From High School to College* by Patricia Pasick
- *Empty Nest, Full Heart: The Journey from Home to College* by Andrea Van Steenhouse. Practical advice from a Mom and Ph.D.
- *Don't Tell Me What To Do, Just Send Money: The Essential Parenting Guide to the College Years* by Helen E. Johnson and Christine Schelhas-Miller
- *Campus Daze* by George Gibbs
- *The College Guide for Parents* by Charles Shield