

# HIGH SCHOOL Academic Bulletin

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## What is the PSAT/NMSQT?

PSAT/NMSQT stands for Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test. The Preliminary SAT®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test is a co-sponsored program by the College Board and National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC).

It's a standardized test that provides firsthand practice for the SAT Reasoning Test™. It also gives you a chance to enter National Merit Scholarship Corporation (NMSC) scholarship programs.

The PSAT/NMSQT measures:

- ◆ critical reading skills
- ◆ math problem-solving skills
- ◆ writing skills

You have developed these skills over many years, both in and out of school. This test doesn't require you to recall specific facts from your classes.

The most common reasons for taking the PSAT/NMSQT are:

- ◆ to receive feedback on your strengths and weaknesses on skills necessary for college study. You can then focus your preparation on those areas that could most benefit from additional study or practice.
- ◆ to see how your performance on an admissions test might compare with that of others applying to college.
- ◆ to enter the competition for scholarships from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation (grade 11).
- ◆ to help prepare for the SAT. You can become familiar with the kinds of questions and the exact directions you will see on the SAT.
- ◆ to receive information from colleges when you check "yes" to Student Search Service.

### **How do you sign up for the PSAT?**

You must sign up for the PSAT/NMSQT at your high school or at another high school in your community. This year's dates are Oct. 15 and 18.

If you would like to take the PSAT/NMSQT, contact your high school counselor or principal to find out about registering for the test, paying the test fees, and learning the correct date, time, and location that your school will give the test in October. Also, contact your guidance office for a copy of the Official Student Guide to the PSAT/NMSQT to help you prepare before test day.

Source: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

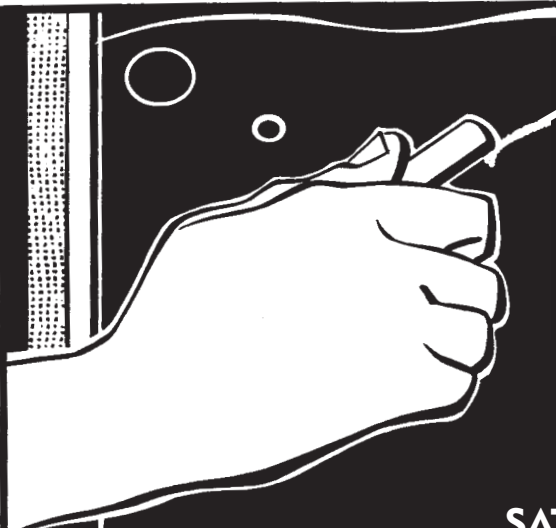


## Exercise your brain with the Official SAT Question of the Day™

There is a new SAT question every day, complete with a detailed explanation and hint. Sign up online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) to receive a daily e-mail for the official SAT question of the day.



# IMPORTANT TEST DATES AND REGISTRATION DEADLINES FOR THE 2008-09 SCHOOL YEAR



**PSAT Test Dates:**  
University High - Oct. 18

### SAT & Subject Tests Dates

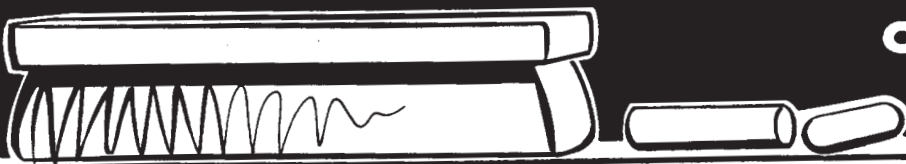
Test Dates	Reg. Deadline	Late Reg. (Late Fee Req.)
Oct. 4, 2008	Sept. 9, 2008	Sept. 16, 2008
Nov. 1, 2008	Sept. 26, 2008	Oct. 10, 2008
Dec. 6, 2008	Nov. 5, 2008	Nov. 18, 2008
Jan. 24, 2009	Dec. 26, 2008	Jan. 6, 2009
March 14, 2009 (SAT only)	Feb. 10, 2009	Feb. 24, 2009
May 2, 2009	March 31, 2009	April 9, 2009
June 6, 2009	May 5, 2009	May 15, 2009

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

### ACT Test Dates

Test Dates	Reg. Deadline	Late Reg. (Late Fee Req.)
Sept. 13, 2008*	Aug. 12, 2008	Aug. 13 - 22, 2008
Oct. 25, 2008	Sept. 19, 2008	Sept. 20 - Oct. 3, 2008
Dec. 13, 2008	Nov. 7, 2008	Nov. 8 - 20, 2008
Feb. 7, 2009**	Jan. 6, 2009	Jan. 7 - 16, 2009
April 4, 2009	Feb. 27, 2009	Feb. 28 - Mar. 13, 2009
June 13, 2009	May 8, 2009	May 9 - 22, 2009

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



# Tips for Writing Your College Essay

Even seemingly boring topics can be made into exceptional admissions essays with an innovative approach. In writing the essay you must bear in mind your two goals: to persuade the admissions officer that you are extremely worthy of admission and to make the admissions officer aware that you are more than a GPA and a standardized score, that you are a real-life, intriguing personality.

Unfortunately, there is no surefire step-by-step method to writing a good essay. Every topic requires a different treatment since no two essays are alike. However, you should find the following list of tips useful while writing your admissions essay.

## Answer the Question.

You can follow the next 12 steps, but if you miss the question, you will not be admitted to any institution.

## Be Original.

Even seemingly boring essay topics can sound interesting if creatively approached. If writing about a gymnastics competition you trained for, do not start your essay: "I worked long hours for many weeks to train for state competition." Consider an opening like, "Every morning I awoke at 5:00 to sweat, tears, and blood as I trained on the uneven bars hoping to bring the state gymnastics trophy to my hometown."

## Be Yourself.

Admissions officers want to learn about you and your writing ability. Write about something meaningful and describe your feelings, not necessarily your actions. If you do this, your essay will be unique. Many people travel to foreign countries or win competitions, but your feelings during these events are unique to you. Unless a philosophical or societal problem has interested you intensely for years, stay away from grand themes with which you have little personal experience.

## Don't "Thesaurize" your Composition.

For some reason, students continue to think big words make good essays. Big words are fine, but only if they are used in the appropriate contexts with complex styles. Think Hemingway.

## Use Imagery and Clear, Vivid Prose.

If you are not adept with imagery, you can write an excellent essay without it, but it's not easy. The application essay lends itself to imagery since the entire essay requires your experiences as supporting details. Appeal to the five senses of the admissions officers.

## Spend the Most Time On Your Introduction.

Expect admissions officers to spend 1-2

minutes reading your essay. You must use your introduction to grab their interest from the beginning. You might even consider completely changing your introduction after writing your body paragraphs.

- Don't Summarize in your Introduction. Ask yourself why a reader would want to read your entire essay after reading your introduction. If you summarize, the admissions officer need not read the rest of your essay.
- Create Mystery or Intrigue in your Introduction. It is not necessary or recommended that your first sentence give away the subject matter. Raise questions in the minds of the admissions officers to force them to read on. Appeal to their emotions to make them relate to your subject matter.

## Body Paragraphs Must Relate to Introduction.

Your introduction can be original, but cannot be silly. The paragraphs that follow must relate to your introduction.

## Use Transition.

Applicants continue to ignore transition to their own detriment. You must use transition within paragraphs and especially between paragraphs to preserve the logical flow of your essay. Transition is not limited to phrases like "as a result, in addition, while . . . , since . . . , etc." but includes repeating key words and progressing the idea. Transition provides the intellectual architecture to argument building.

## Conclusions are Crucial.

The conclusion is your last chance to persuade the reader or impress upon him/her your qualifications. In the conclusion, avoid summary since the essay is rather short to begin with; the reader should not need to be reminded of what you wrote 300 words before. Also do not use stock phrases like "in conclusion, in summary, to conclude, etc." You should consider the following conclusions:

- Expand upon the broader implications of your discussion.
- Consider linking your conclusion to your introduction to establish a sense of balance by reiterating introductory phrases.
- Redefine a term used previously in your body paragraphs.
- End with a famous quote that is relevant to your argument. Do not try to do this, as this approach is overdone. This should come naturally.
- Frame your discussion within a larger context or show that your topic has widespread appeal.
- Remember, your essay need not be so tidy that you can answer why your little sister died or why people starve in Africa; you are not writing a "sit-com,"



but should forge some attempt at closure.

## Do Something Else.

Spend a week or so away from your draft to decide if you still consider your topic and approach worthwhile.

## Give your Draft to Others.

Ask editors to read with these questions in mind:

- What is the essay about?
- Have I used active voice verbs wherever possible?
- Is my sentence structure varied or do I use all long or all short sentences?
- Do you detect any clichés?
- Do I use transition appropriately?
- Do I use imagery often and does this make the essay clearer and more vivid?
- What's the best part of the essay?
- What about the essay is memorable?
- What's the worst part of the essay?
- What parts of the essay need elaboration or are unclear?
- What parts of the essay do not support your main argument or are immaterial to your case?
- Is every single sentence crucial to the essay? This MUST be the case.
- What does the essay reveal about your personality?
- Could anyone else have written this essay?
- How would you fill in the following blank based on the essay: "I want to accept you to this college because our college needs more \_\_\_\_\_."

## Revise, Revise, Revise.

You only are allowed so many words; use them wisely. If H.D. Thoreau couldn't write a good essay without revision, neither will you. Delete anything in the essay that does not relate to your main argument. Do you use transition? Are your introduction and conclusions more than summaries? Did you find every single grammatical error?

- Allow for the evolution of your main topic. Do not assume your subject must remain fixed and that you can only tweak sentences.
- Editing takes time. Consider reordering your supporting details, delete irrelevant sections, and make clear the broader implications of your experiences. Allow your more important arguments to come to the foreground. Take points that might only be implicit and make them explicit.

# Seven Excuses Why Not to Go to College...

## *...And Why They're Lame*

Think college is for other kids, and not for you? Wrong. Don't give up on applying to college before you take a good look at it.

1

### **I can't go to college—nobody in my family has ever gone.**

In every family, someone has to be first. Why not you? True, being first can be hard. For instance, you may have to explain to the family why college is important to you. On the other hand, being first is likely to be a source of pride, for you and for your family.

2

### **I've been in school for 12 years. That's enough! I just want a good job.**

Give college a chance. It's not like high school or junior high. For one thing, in college you pick a major — a subject area that you want to learn about. As for that good job — the best jobs and the best salaries go to college grads.

3

### **I can't go to college because I can't afford it.**

Most students get financial aid to help pay for college, and most aid is based on need. This means that the less money you have, the more aid you might get.

4

### **I can't go because I don't know how to apply or where I want to go.**

Tell your high school counselor you want to go to college fairs, where colleges introduce themselves to students. Ask him/her how to write to schools for information. Try to visit colleges that interest you. Keep at it. After a while, you'll get a feel for differences among colleges, and start to know what you want.

5

### **I can't go to college—I don't know what I want to do with my life.**

Join the crowd. Thousands of college freshmen haven't decided on a major or on a career. That's how college helps. It exposes you to all sorts of subjects you've never heard of before. College is a great place to learn more about careers you'll love for life.

6

### **I can't go to college, because I just won't fit in.**

Not so. Most colleges have students from many backgrounds. Homesick? Need a hand? Look for people with your interests or your background, for example, in the African-American club, on the soccer field, or in a Korean study group. Remember, college is a great place to meet new kinds of people with different lifestyles. And the more people you understand and feel comfortable with, the better prepared you'll be for the world after college.

7

### **College is too hard for me.**

Not you, too! Most students worry about being good enough for college, so you're not alone. One idea: In high school, don't just study—learn how to study. Most good students have strategies for studying. Once you learn how to study, chances are you'll do fine. Still need help? Professors are really helpful, and so are tutors.



# College Prep: Action Plan for FALL

## SENIORS

### Pull Your Applications Together

Narrow your list of colleges to between five and ten and review it with your counselor. Get an application and financial aid info from each. Visit as many as possible.

Make a master calendar and note:

- Test dates, fees, and deadlines.
- College application due dates.
- Required financial aid applications and their deadlines.
- Recommendations, transcripts, and other necessary materials.
- Your high school's deadlines for application requests, such as your transcript.
- Ask for recommendations. Give each person your resume, a stamped, addressed envelope, and any required forms.
- Write application essays and ask teachers, parents, and friends to read first drafts.

### Are You Applying Early Action or Early Decision?

November 1: For early admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications in early November. Send in your SAT scores at [www.college-board.com](http://www.college-board.com).

Ask if your college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility.

### Get Financial Aid Info

- Attend financial aid info events in your area.
- Talk to your counselor about CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®.

Use Scholarship Search at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com), review scholarship books, and ask your counselor about local and state funding sources.

## JUNIORS

### Take the PSAT/NMSQT

At school, sign up early to take the PSAT/NMSQT® in October. Get PSAT/NMSQT tips and a free practice test.

### Start Your College Search

- Start with you: Make lists of your abilities, preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.
- Jumpstart your college planning by reading about majors and careers.
- Search college websites to find colleges with the right characteristics.

### Start Thinking About Financial Aid

Talk to your counselor about your college plans and attend college night and financial aid night at your school. Use financial aid calculators to estimate your aid eligibility and college costs.

## FRESHMEN

### Plan for the Year Ahead

- Meet with your counselor to discuss your college plans. Review your schedule with him or her to make sure you're enrolled in challenging classes that will help you prepare for college. Colleges prefer four years of English, history, math, science, and a foreign language.
- Use College Search at [www.college-board.com](http://www.college-board.com) to find out the required courses and tests for colleges that you might be interested in attending.
- Start a calendar with important dates and deadlines.
- Get more involved with your extracurricular activities.
- Go to college fairs in your area.

## SOPHOMORES

### Plan for the Year Ahead

- Meet with your counselor to discuss your college plans. Review your schedule with him or her to make sure you're enrolled in challenging classes that will help you prepare for college. Colleges prefer four years of English, history, math, science, and a foreign language.
- Start a calendar with important dates and deadlines.
- Get more involved with your extracurricular activities.
- Use College Search to find out the required courses and tests for colleges that you might be interested in attending.
- Go to college fairs in your area.

### Consider Taking the PSAT/NMSQT®

- Sign up for the PSAT/NMSQT, which is given in October.
- If you're taking the PSAT/NMSQT check 'yes' for Student Search Service® to hear about colleges and scholarships at [www.college-board.com](http://www.college-board.com).

# What to do about 'Senioritis'

Seniors have worked hard for three years, taking tests, completing projects, and preparing for college admission. When senior year rolls around, some students just want to get through college applications and relax before they head off to the college of their choice.

Also known as senioritis, taking it easy senior year may seem like a nice break, but is likely to do more harm than good. According to recent reports, incomplete high school preparation can contribute to academic problems in college.

As many as half of all college students do not have adequate academic preparation, and are required to take remedial courses.

More than one quarter of the freshmen at four-year colleges and nearly half of those at two-year colleges do not even make it to their sophomore year.

Not only does senioritis jeopardize your chances for success later on in college, it can also affect your grades—and college admission officers pay close attention to your performance senior year.

## Senior-Year Grades and College Admission

Many students mistakenly believe that prepping for college ends after the eleventh grade. However, the senior year—the entire senior year—is actually of particular interest to colleges.

## Applying

Many college applications (including the Common Application) require you to list your senior courses, including information about course levels and credit hours. It will be very obvious to the admission officers if you've decided to take the year off.

Many colleges also include as part of the application a form called the mid-year grade report. Your counselor completes this form with first-half grades and sends it to the colleges to which you've applied. It then becomes a crucial part of the application folder.

## If You Are Accepted

Many college acceptance letters include warnings to students such as, "Your admission is contingent on your continued successful performance." This means colleges reserve the right to deny you admission should your senior year grades drop.

Mary Lee Hoganson, college counselor for Homewood-Flossmor Community High School, Flossmor, Illinois writes: "It is not at all rare for a college to withdraw an offer of admission when grades drop significantly over the course of the senior year."



## How to Make the Most of Your Senior Year

Senior year is your opportunity to strengthen your skills and broaden your experiences, in school and out, to prepare for all of the challenges ahead. A successful senior year can help launch you on the path to a successful future.

## Maintain a Challenging Course Load

You should take the most rigorous courses available, and be sure to continue taking college-track subjects. Consider AP courses, which can also earn you credit at many colleges.

## Stay Active and Involved

Your continued involvement in activities, sports, and volunteer work will help you stay active and focused throughout your final year. A great internship or career-focused job opportunity can help motivate you to start considering your career options. Meaningful and significant experiences will help prepare you to make informed decisions about your education and career goals.

## Try out College Early

If you're interested in pursuing a subject further, and have excelled at your high school classes so far, consider taking a class at a local college. This challenge can help you avoid sliding into an academic slump, and stimulate your interest in the possibilities of college.

Another option in many areas is middle college or early college high schools. These schools, normally located on community and four-year college campuses, allow students to spend their last two years taking classes in both college and high school. Early exposure to college classes introduces you to the rigor of college work while easing your transition from high school.

Sources: National Commission on the High School Senior Year, *The Lost Opportunity of Senior Year: Finding a Better Way — Summary of Findings, 2001*. Barth, P., Haycock, K., Huang, S. and Richardson, A., *Youth at the Crossroads: Facing High School and Beyond*.



# 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.

## SIEMENS COMPETITION

Provided by: Siemens Corp.

Deadline: **October 1, 2008**

Amount varies: \$1,000 - \$100,000

Website: [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 no later than September 1, 2009. 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.

Applicable Majors: Mathematics, Engineering, Biological Sciences, Physical Sciences, Technology

## HORATIO ALGER NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP

Provided by: Horatio Alger Scholarship Programs

Deadline: **October 30, 2008**

Amount varies: Awards 105 \$20,000 scholarships

Website: [www.horatioalger.org](http://www.horatioalger.org)

Description: The Horatio Alger National Scholarship Program assists high school students who have faced and overcome great obstacles in their young lives. While many aid programs are directed primarily to recognizing academic achievement or leadership potential, the Horatio Alger program also seeks students who have a commitment to use their college degrees in service to others.

The eligibility criteria to be considered for National Scholarships and Horatio Alger State Scholarship Programs are as follows: enrollment full time as a high school senior, graduating in the spring/summer 2009; a strong commitment to pursuing a bachelor's degree at an accredited institution (students may start their studies at a two-year institution and then transfer to a four-year institution; critical financial need (\$50,000 or less adjusted gross income per family is preferred, if higher explanation must be provided); involvement in co-curricular and community activities; demonstrated integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity; a minimum GPA of 2.0.

## COCA-COLA FOUR-YEAR COLLEGE AWARD

Provided by: Coca-Cola Company

Deadline: **October 31, 2008**

Amount varies: Awards 50 four-year \$20,000 scholarships and 200 four-year \$10,000 scholarships for use at accredited colleges and universities within the U.S.

Website: [www.coca-colascholars.org](http://www.coca-colascholars.org)

Description: Available to seniors with a minimum 3.0 GPA at the end of their junior year of high school, this award rewards leadership and excellence as exemplified through academic achievement and extracurricular activities, including commitment to community service.

## VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AUDIO ESSAY CONTEST

Provided by: Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Deadline: **November 1, 2008**

Amount varies: \$1,000 - \$16,000

Website: [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

Description: The Voice of Democracy National Audio Essay Contest is open to students in grades 9 through 12. You must write and record an essay of between three and five minutes. Essay themes are announced annually and are listed on the Website. Each state

winner will receive an all-expense-paid trip to Washington, D.C. where he/she will compete for national scholarships, including a \$30,000 first place scholarship.

## INTEL SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH

Provided by: Intel

Deadline: **November 19, 2008**

Amount varies: \$1,000 - \$100,000

Website: [www.intel.com/education/sts/](http://www.intel.com/education/sts/)

Description: The Intel Science Talent Search is one of the most prestigious scientific research competitions for high school seniors in the United States. Winners are selected on the basis of their potential as future scientists and researchers. 40 finalists are invited on an all-expense-paid trip to the Science Talent Institute in Washington, DC in March, where the winners are selected. All finalists also receive a high performance computer.

## THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE AWARD

Provided by: Global Challenge Inc.

Deadline: **December 15, 2008**

Amount varies: up to \$3,500

Website: [www.globalchallengeaward.org](http://www.globalchallengeaward.org)

Description: The Global Challenge is open to high school students. To participate in this challenge, you will work in international teams of four high school students (two from the U.S. and two from another country) and work together over the Internet to identify a solution that addresses some aspect of climate change and the future of energy. Two levels of competition are available to you: the Technical Innovation and the Global Business Plan Competitions. In the Technical Innovation Plan Competition you must prepare and submit a description of your innovative idea for solving the world's global climate crisis. In the Global Business Plan Competition, your team must extend that idea to show its potential as a feasible global business through the development of a detailed business plan.

## ALL-INK.COM COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Provided by: All-Ink.com

Deadline: **December 31, 2008**

Amount: equal to \$1,000

Website: [www.all-ink.com/scholarship.aspx](http://www.all-ink.com/scholarship.aspx)

Description: The All-Ink.com College Scholarship Program is available to students who are enrolled or planning to enroll in an accredited college or university with a minimum 2.5 GPA. To apply for this scholarship, you must submit a 50- to 200-word essay on who has had the greatest impact on your life, and a 50- to 200-word essay on what you hope to achieve in your personal and professional life after college.

## MOST VALUABLE STUDENT COMPETITION

Provided by: The Elks National Foundation

Deadline: **January 9, 2009**

Amount varies: \$1,000 - \$15,000

Website: [www.elks.org/enf/scholars/mvs.cfm](http://www.elks.org/enf/scholars/mvs.cfm)

Description: 500 four-year scholarships are awarded to the highest-rated applicants in the competition. Any high school senior who is a citizen of the United States is eligible to apply. Applicants need not be related to a member of the Elks. Applicants will be judged on scholarship, leadership, and financial need.

Check your local Elks Lodge for additional local scholarship opportunities.

# 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.



## THE GATES MILLENNIUM SCHOLARS PROGRAM

Provided by: Gates Millennium Scholars

Deadline: **January 12, 2009**

Amount: not specified

Website: [www.gmsp.org](http://www.gmsp.org)

Description: Students are eligible to be considered for a GMS scholarship if they are African American, American Indian/Alaska Native, Asian Pacific Islander American or Hispanic American; have attained a cumulative high school GPA of 3.3 on an unweighted 4.0 scale or have earned a GED; will be enrolling for the first time at a U.S. accredited college or university as a full-time, degree-seeking, first-year student in the fall 2009; have demonstrated leadership abilities through participation in community service, extracurricular, or other activities; meet the Federal Pell Grant eligibility criteria; meet nomination process.

## DAVIDSON FELLOWS SCHOLARSHIP

Provided by: Davidson Institute for Talent Development

Deadline: **March 4, 2009**

Amount varies: \$10,000 - \$50,000

Website: [www.davidsonfellows.org](http://www.davidsonfellows.org)

Description: The Davidson Fellows Scholarship is open to students who can demonstrate noteworthy achievements through the creation of a "significant piece of work" aimed at improving the lives of others in the areas of science, technology, mathematics, music, literature, philosophy and outside the box. A "significant piece of work" is defined as an exceptionally creative application of

existing knowledge; a new idea with high impact; an innovative solution with broad-range implications; an important advancement that can be replicated and built upon; an interdisciplinary discovery; an exemplary performance; and/or another demonstration of extraordinary accomplishment. You must also be under the age of 18 as of October 1, 2008.

## COCA-COLA TWO-YEAR COLLEGE AWARD

Provided by: Coca-Cola Company

Deadline: **May 31**

Amount varies: Awards 350 one-time \$1,000 awards

Website: [www.coca-colascholars.org](http://www.coca-colascholars.org)

Description: Available to students planning to acquire an Associates degree. This award rewards leadership and excellence as demonstrated through academics, community service and/or employment. Students should contact their intended college for deadline information. Please contact the two year college that you plan to attend for information on the nomination process. Students must carry a minimum of a 2.5 GPA at time of nomination, plan to enroll in at least two courses during the fall term at a two-year, degree granting institution; be actively engaged in volunteer service or employed at least part-time.

Please note: The New Century Scholars Program supported by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and The Coca-Cola Foundation awards 50 one-time \$2,000 scholarships. For more information please visit [www.ptk.org](http://www.ptk.org).

## BOOKMARK TOOLS

# Top 10 College Websites

Start your college research now.

[www.petersons.com](http://www.petersons.com) (SAT prep, college search, etc.)

[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) (This is where you sign up for the SAT. Comprehensive site for all your college searches)

[www.universityofcalifornia.edu/aboutuc/welcome.html](http://www.universityofcalifornia.edu/aboutuc/welcome.html) (University of California Web site — great information for all UC campuses)

[www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu) (all the information you'll need for the Cal State campuses)

[www.gocollege.com](http://www.gocollege.com) (scholarship and college search)

[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) (free application and information for federal student aid)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) (comprehensive scholarship search engine)

[www.finaid.com](http://www.finaid.com) (comprehensive scholarship search engine)

[www.collegeconfidential.com](http://www.collegeconfidential.com) (a wealth of college information)

[www.collegebound.net](http://www.collegebound.net)

