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College Corner

What you need to know by NOW!!!

SAT EXAMS

The SAT is designed to connect what students learn in the classroom and the skills that they need to succeed in college. The SAT is the exam required by most U.S. colleges and universities. The last test date for Seniors is January 28, 2012. The deadline for regular registration is **December 30th**. Don't miss it! The tests scheduled for later in the spring are meant for juniors, **not you!**

If standardized tests are a major struggle for you be sure to apply to some colleges that do not require the SAT. There are more than 280 colleges across the U.S. that do not consider SAT scores when admitting students. For a list of these schools go to www.fairtest.org.

NEWS FROM CUNY - CUNY applications are an online application only. The CUNY website is www.cuny.edu/apply. If you have not applied yet, pick up a set of instructions and a CUNY packet from the College Office, Room 306.

Need help in filling out your application? The College Office is available to assist you with the CUNY Application periods 4, 5 or 6th. Come into the College Office, Room 306 and make an appointment. Space is limited and make sure to keep your scheduled appointment. The last appointment will be given for Dec. 16th and will resume in January 2012.

APPLICATIONS

Students should have turned in all their transcript request forms, personal statements, recommendations and stamps to the college office. So can you relax now? **NO Not exactly!** It's time to really concentrate on your class work so that the grades on the Mid-Year report which the colleges receive will be as impressive as your letters of recommendation. Don't catch "senioritis"! It could be fatal to your college applications.

***DECEMBER IS A VERY BUSY MONTH, THEREFORE THE COLLEGE OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED ON TUESDAYS AND THURSDAYS AFTER PERIOD 3. THE COLLEGE OFFICE WILL BE OPENED ON FRIDAYS BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.**

***ALL TRANSCRIPT REQUEST FORM MUST BE SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OFFICE BY DECEMBER 16. ANY TRANSCRIPT REQUEST SUBMITTED AFTER WILL BE PROCESSED AFTER THE BREAK.**

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Special points of interest:

- FINANCIAL AID NIGHT TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011 6:45 PM, Auditorium
- APPLY, APPLY, APPLY!
- CUNY APP Assistance period 4, 5, 6 ONLY!
- College Office Closed Tuesdays & Thursdays after period 3 & Fridays by appointment only.

CUNY application tips:

You can apply to up to six programs and colleges using one application. Because of this, you send your completed application to the University Application Processing Center (UAPC) instead of to each individual school. If you attend a New York City public school, you need to enter your student ID (OSIS) number when you are applying to CUNY. With this number they will be able to pull up your high school transcript automatically. The college office does not need to send CUNY your transcripts. All students who are interested in applying to a CUNY Honors College will need to fill out a separate Honors College Application and submit it to UAPC. You will be able to apply to only SIX of the SEVEN Macaulay Honors College programs. **Macaulay Honors College regular decision deadline December 1, 2011.** Although CUNY has a rolling admissions policy for general admission, it is best to submit your application for all admissions by as soon as possible before **February 1, 2011.**

OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS- HEOP, EOP, CD, SEEK?

A number of state- and city-funded programs provide financial aid and academic support called Opportunity Programs to New York City students who are **eco-nomically AND academically** disadvantaged.

- Higher Education Opportunity Programs- (HEOP), available through many private colleges
- Educational Opportunity Program- (EOP), available through New York's State public colleges
- College Discovery (CD) and the Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge (SEEK), available to students attending a CUNY school.

Despite the variety of names, all the programs offer two types of services. **First, academic support.** It begins with a pre-freshman summer school program. Your strengths and weaknesses will be assessed and after determining what your needs are you will be required to take remedial courses. You will also get support in the form of free tutoring and personal counseling.

Second, Financial Aid. The second service provided by the programs is of course financial aid to help with room, board, and personal expenses. They will help as much as possible but they do not cover all of your tuition. These programs provide assistance to make sure a student will succeed in class and graduate. Typically a (H)EOP student will try harder to succeed and statistics show a lower drop out rate among non (H)EOP students, especially the first year. In other words, there is nothing wrong or unpleasant about being in one of these programs it's actually to your advantage and benefit!

HEOP- Private Colleges & Universities

- Alfred University (607) 871-2283
- Bard College (845) 758-7491
- Barnard College(212) 854-3583
- Boricua College (212) 694-1000 Ext. 608

- Canisius College of Buffalo (716) 888-2575
- Cazenovia College (315) 655-7161
- Clarkson University (315) 268-7974
- Colgate University (315) 228-7375
- College of Aeronautics(718) 429-6600
- College of Saint Rose (518) 454-5280
- Columbia University(212) 854-7052
- Cornell University (607) 255-6384
- Daemen College (716) 839-8249
- Dowling College (631) 244-3262
- D'Youville College (716) 881-7775
- Five Towns College (631) 656-2129 or 2128
- Fordham University:
- College at Lincoln Center(212) 636-6238
- Fordham University:(718) 817-4205
- Hamilton College (315) 859-4399 or 859-4398
- Hobart & Wm Smith Colleges (315) 781-3319
- Hofstra University (516) 463-6982
- Ithaca College (607) 274-3381
- LeMoyne College (315) 445-4190
- LIU- Brooklyn Campus (718) 488-1043
- LIU- C.W. Post Campus (516) 299-2241
- LIU- Southampton Campus (631) 287-8356
- Manhattan College (718) 862-8000 Ext 7958
- Manhattanville College (914) 694-2200
- Marist College (845) 575-3204
- Marymount Manhattan College (212) 517-0591
- Mercy College (914) 674-7212
- Molloy College (516) 678-5000 Ext 6241
- Mount Saint Mary College (845) 569-3245
- Nazareth College (585)389-2513
- New School University (212)229-8996
- NYIT- Metropolitan Center (212)261-1545
- NYIT- Old Westbury Campus (516) 686-7574
- New York University (212)998-5670
- NYU Polytechnic University (718) 260-3031
- Niagara University (716) 286-8068
- Nyack College (845) 358-1710 Ext. 560
- Paul Smith's College (518) 327-6480

- Pratt Institute (718) 636-3524
- Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute (518) 276-6272
- Rochester Institute of Technology (585) 475-2221
- Russell Sage College(518) 244-2209
- Sage College of Albany(518) 292-1764
- St. Bonaventure University(716) 375-2402
- St. John Fisher College (585) 385-8036
- St. Lawrence University (315) 229-5580
- St. Thomas Aquinas College (845) 398-4026
- Siena College (518) 783-2335
- Skidmore College (518) 580-5770
- Syracuse University (315) 443-3867
- Syracuse University (315) 443-3257
- Trocaire College (716) 827-2476
- Union College (518) 388-6115
- University of Rochester (585) 275-0651
- Utica College (315) 792-3209
- Villa Maria College of Buffalo (716) 961-1853

SUNY EOP

- Albany
- Binghamton
- University at Buffalo
- Stony Brook
- NYS College of Ceramics at Alfred University
- Cornell University
- Environmental Science & Forestry

University Colleges

Brockport	Buffalo State	Cortland
Fredonia	Geneseo	New Paltz
Old Westbury	Oneonta	Oswego
Plattsburgh	Potsdam	Purchase

Colleges of Technology

Alfred State	Canton	Cobleskill
Delhi	Farmingdale	Maritime
Morrisville	SUNYIT	

Community Colleges

Broome	Dutchess	Erie
FIT	Finger Lakes	Fulton-Montgomery
Geneseo	Hudson Valley	Monroe
Onondaga	Schenectady	Suffolk
Ulster	Westchester	

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

Simply put, it is money in the form of scholarships, grants, and loans to help you pay for college. Financial aid can make it possible for you to go to college even if you and your family cannot afford the full cost of tuition, room, and board. You will need to complete one or more forms to apply for these monies. The types of financial aid are:

- **Grants and scholarships**— money that you don't have to payback!
- **Federal Work-Study**—money you must work to earn.
- **Loans**—money that you may borrow but must pay back.

Based on financial information you provide, colleges will determine how much financial aid to offer you. In addition, other scholarships might be available from local civic organizations, businesses, and foundations that you can apply for separately.

The federal financial aid programs described below are for citizens and U.S. residents. There are some, financial aid options, although limited, available to non-citizens, such as CUNY's Peter Vallone Scholarship

FAFSA-Filling out FAFSA

To apply for any type of financial aid at any college in the U.S. you must fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is used to calculate how much your family can afford to pay for college. This worksheet is available in the college office Room 306 or through www.fafsa.ed.gov. You should plan to submit your FAFSA application as soon as possible after **January 1, 2012**.

What will you need?

The FAFSA asks for information from your parents' 2011 tax returns. In order for you to submit the FAFSA form on time, your parents will need to complete their tax forms in January. If you cannot obtain your parents' tax information, follow the special instructions in the FAFSA application. If your parents cannot process

their tax forms in January and their income has not changed significantly from the previous year, they can use the **estimated** tax information based on their previous year's forms.

Determining Aid and Eligibility

Based on the information you provide in the FAFSA, the federal government calculates your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC). The federal government then creates a Student Aid Report (SAR) and sends it to you to review for errors. Once you sign and return it, your SAR is sent to all the colleges you listed on the FAFSA as schools you are interested in attending. Each college that receives your information will use it to create a financial aid package based on your family's financial need. However, some of the colleges on your list will not have enough money to meet 100% of your financial need. Be sure to apply to a variety of colleges so that you can compare the financial aid packages you receive from each one. All of the colleges to which you apply will use the SAR to determine your eligibility for the various types of federal financial aid, such as PELL grants, Federal Supplemental Education Opportunity Grants (FSEOG), Federal Work-Study (FWS), Stafford Loans, Perkins, and Plus Parent Loans. If you are interested in applying to college within New York state, the financial information you listed on your FAFSA will also be used to determine your eligibility for New York state financial aid opportunities like the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP).

Additional forms required by some colleges

Some colleges will require more detailed information about your family's financial situation than what appears in the FAFSA. They may also have you fill out their own financial aid form and/or the College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile form. Read the information you receive from colleges carefully so you

know what information is required. Unlike the FAFSA, you have to pay a fee for each college to which your CSS Profile is sent. Go to www.profileonline.collegeboard.com for more information on which colleges require this additional financial aid form.

Grants and Scholarships

Grants from the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP)

If you plan to attend college within New York State, the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) can provide grant money to help offset the cost of your college expenses. After you complete your FAFSA online, you will be able to link to an online TAP application where you can register for a PIN (personal identification number) that allows you to access your information in the future and electronically sign your applications.

Scholarships

Privately funded scholarships are a great way to reduce the amount of tuition and fees that you and your family have to pay, as well as lower the amount of loans the college expects you to take out to help cover the cost of tuition. While all federal and state financial aid is based upon your family's financial need, private scholarships can be either need- or merit-based. Many organizations offer scholarships to students with particular talents in areas such as academics, sports, visual and performing arts, leadership, and community service. Also ask your parents or guardians to inquire if their employers offer scholarship programs. Also ask the financial aid offices at the colleges to which you are applying what they offer for scholarships and student work programs. Come to the college office to pick up your copy of the *Comprehensive List of Scholarship Opportunities for New York City Students 2011-2012*.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Hundreds of thousands of scholarship dollars go unclaimed each year because students do not apply. Don't let all that money go to waste! Begin applying now for **FREE** money!!! Remember, no one is going to come to you...**YOU** need to take the first step and start searching for them today. The following is a list of scholarships you might be eligible to receive. For more information or to check requirements for each scholarship go to their websites.

• Burger King

www.haveityourwayfoundation.org

• Los Padres Foundaiton

www.lospadresfoundation.com

• J.P. Morgan Chase Smart Start Scholarship Program

<https://srp.ets.org/SRPOnline/>

JPMC Sponsor ID is 9963

JPMC Security Code is SMART

New scholarships will be posted in the College Corner Newsletters each month as they come in but don't wait for them. Do some research on your own! Use the scholarship folder in the College Office or check on the internet for thousands of new scholarships. Remember, it is **YOUR** responsibility to find and apply for free money.

Don't forget to try these websites too.

www.finaid.org

www.fastweb.com

www.collegenet.com

www.petersons.com

www.lunch-money.com

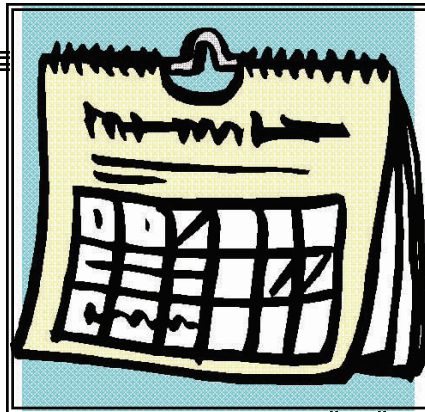
www.cappex.com



TIMELINE FOR Seniors: DECEMBER, JANUARY & FEBRUARY

DECEMBER

- Take the December SAT or ACT if you are registered.
- Give applications with mid-January deadlines to Mrs. Mastropietro to complete questions on class rank and academic history.
- Give the college office a list of colleges and scholarship organizations that require an official transcript.
- Finalize your essays.
- If you applied for Early Decision or Early Action, keep an eye out for decision letters.
- Prepare for January Regents.
- Send out all scholarship applications before the deadlines.
- Attend financial aid workshops with your parents/guardians at GCHS.



JANUARY & FEBRUARY

- January is a very popular month for application deadlines. Make you print your applications for your records.
- Ask your parents/guardians to work on their tax return estimates so you can complete the FAFSA as soon as possible **after January 1, 2012** and get the financial aid you need.
- Complete the CSS/PROFILE and other financial aid forms.
- Are you on track for graduation? Did you meet with your guidance counselor?
- Which, if any, Regents exams do you need to take in June?
- Register for College Now classes if you haven't already.
- Make sure your applications are complete.
- Check with college office to make sure your letters of recommendation and transcripts are mailed.