

2011-12 ACT Calendar Dates

Test Date	Registration Deadline	Late Registration Deadline
September 10, 2011	August 12, 2011	August 13 – 26, 2011
October 22, 2011	September 16, 2011	September 17 – 30, 2011
December 10, 2011	November 4, 2011	November 5 – 18, 2011
February 11, 2012*	January 13, 2012	January 14 – 20, 2012
April 14, 2012	March 9, 2012	March 10 – 23, 2012
June 9, 2012	May 4, 2012	May 5 – 18, 2012

It is recommended that you register for SATs/ACTs online. If you do not have computer access, please see me to apply online at school or to pick up a hard copy of the application. The websites are as follows: **www.collegeboard.com** (for the SAT) or **www.act.org** (for the ACT). Filling out an application should take about ten minutes.

Applications

Colleges have varying recommendations and deadlines for application; however, for regular admissions, December 1 is a generally appropriate date for timely submissions. Applications will typically be accepted for weeks and even months after this date, depending upon college policy. Most schools have “rolling” admissions policies; therefore, qualified candidates are accepted on a “first-come, first-serve” basis. Do not delay applying to wait for new SAT or ACT score reports. If you have scores pending, simply indicate this on your applications and be certain to forward your scores to the schools when you receive them. There are several “early decision” programs offered. Check individual schools for details. Applications for colleges are available on-line.

The Common Application

Students can apply to multiple colleges and universities using the online Common Application. Instead of writing multiple essays and filling out the same information repeatedly, on several applications, you can apply more efficiently with this application.

Website: <https://www.commonapp.org/CommonApp/default.aspx>

Admissions Criteria

There is no universal formula for all colleges, but most admissions decisions are based on the following, in roughly this order:

- 1.) competitiveness of high school classes; 2.) class average and rank; and 3.) SAT or ACT scores. Additionally, private colleges and most state schools weigh: 4.) counselor recommendation; 5.) extra-curricular activities; 6.) college interview; 7.) teacher recommendation(s); and 8.) student essays.

College Visitation

Every college and university has a distinct physical plant and culture. How students dress, the campus atmosphere and the appearance of the dormitories and dining facilities may be as important to a prospective student as a school's academic offerings. It is recommended that you visit during the fall semester, when school is in session. Arrange visits through admissions offices.

If You Are Just Getting Started

Attached is the SUNY Admissions Information Summary. SUNY Schools are affordable and are nationally renowned for quality. The range of selectivity among the SUNY schools parallels that of the great majority of private schools. One way to get started in looking at colleges is to visit the GCS contracted web site: www.careercruising.com (username: greenwich, password: central) and search for schools based on your preferences. Additionally, I welcome you to schedule an appointment with me to address any aspects of the college application process.

Financial Aid

For most students, virtually all need-based financial aid is generated from the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). This form will be available in the Counseling Office in November or December and may not be submitted before January 1, 2009. It can also be submitted on-line, at: www.fafsa.ed.gov Scholarships and other, merit-based financial awards are offered by individual colleges and private organizations. Scholarships sent to our office are announced and kept on file. Students and parents are welcome to peruse this folder. A word of caution: students are often solicited by "scholarship services." If it costs money, beware. For free scholarship search programs, please check "online resources" section of the Counseling Office Web Page. Also, be aware that scholarships have deadlines and the spring of senior may be too late for some of them.

Counselor Recommendations

Students requesting recommendations from me should make an appointment with Mrs. Facin for a brief interview. Within a few days it will be completed. My policy is to promote students in the most honest and positive light and I provide students with copies of what I have written. If a recommendation form from a college provides the choice to waive your right to review the recommendation, I suggest that you waive your right; otherwise, it may appear as though you have something to hide. Although you may have waived your right to see your recommendation, I will still provide you with a copy. Recommendations are very time consuming, so please do not request a recommendation unless it is required or recommended by a college or university you are pursuing. SUNY colleges generally do not require letters of recommendation unless you are sent a supplemental application in response to your submitted application.

Transcripts

Colleges and universities ordinarily require that you submit high school transcripts with your application. You may request your transcript from Brenda Facin, the Counseling Office secretary. Although our electronic document processes are highly accurate, it is worth reviewing your transcript before having it sent to colleges.

NCAA

It is important to be aware that very few high school athletes are capable of participating on teams at NCAA DI or DII institutions. If you have not been contacted by a DI or DII college coach, the odds are high that this level is beyond your reach. Any student pursuing DI or DII athletics must submit an application with the NCAA Clearinghouse for eligibility <https://web1.ncaa.org/eligibilitycenter/common/> . This process is costly and many spend money needlessly, when they are not likely DI or DII candidates. Additionally, there are rigorous academic requirements for NCAA DI and DII participation. It is imperative that you speak with me if you intend to pursue this route.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding post-secondary school planning or would like to meet for an appointment to discuss college choices, I encourage you email or call me to schedule. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Patrick D. Morris
8/23/11
