

COLLEGE  BOUND
YOUR APPLICATION MENTORSM

[Find us on Facebook](#)

[Follow us on Twitter](#)

College Prep Timelines
Changes in SAT Subject test policy
Swarthmore

September, 2010

in this issue

- :: College Prep SENIOR timeline
- :: College Prep JUNIOR timeline
- :: College Prep SOPHOMORE timeline
- :: SAT Subject test policy change
 - :: Blog report: Swarthmore
- :: Forbes College rankings 2010

Back-to-school can be extremely hectic, so August is a great time to work on the college application process to reduce stress in the fall. Below is a time line for rising seniors to jump-start the process. This time line will have seniors ready to submit for early deadlines of Nov. 1 or 15, but even if you are not going to apply early decision or early action, it is a good idea to work toward that deadline.

The timeline for Juniors and Sophomores will give you an idea of where you should be when to reduce stress.

Senior Timeline

The time is now...get organized and finalize your plans.

AUGUST

- The fall is the last testing date that will get in for early applications, so whether you want to improve your scores one more time or you need some additional subject tests, it is a good idea to register now.

[SAT Test dates](#)

[ACT Test dates](#)



- Register for the Common Application. Set up an account and download the list of schools to which you will be applying.

[Common Application](#)

- Brainstorm for Main Personal Statement. Your main essay is called your personal statement. It should be approximately 500 words; there is no limit for the common application.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

- Visit Schools. Most colleges are back the last week in August, so take advantage of a late Labor Day to visit some

schools. It is always great to go when school is in session so that you can get a feel for the students. If possible, schedule an interview.

- Finish Your College List. Identify your final list of schools and decide if you want to apply somewhere early decision, which is binding. Prioritize your applications by interest and difficulty of the application.
- If you are not applying early decision, your goal is to have one or two "reach" schools, which may be too challenging, one or two "possible" schools you think you might possibly be accepted in, three or four ones you are "likely" to get in, and one or two "safety" schools.

SEPTEMBER

- Request letters of recommendation from teachers. Ask your teachers to write you a letter of recommendation at the beginning of the school year. Many teachers limit the number of students for whom they write letters, so it is best to get on their list early. Once you have your final list determined, you should provide your teacher with a recommendation form and stamped, addressed envelopes for each school.
- Schedule an interview, if appropriate for your schools.
- Schedule an Audition (if applicable). The deadline for this varies by school.
- Fill Out Your CSS Profile.

[CSS Profile \(Private School Financial Aid Form\)](#)

If you are applying to private colleges, you can submit the CSS profile as early as September with an estimated income tax form.

For the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), you will need to wait until Jan. 1.

[FAFSA \(Federal Student Aid\)](#)

SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

- Register for State Applications. Many state schools do not participate in the common application, so you will need to set up a separate account for each school. Do not despair, though, because you can often use the same personal statement that you write for the common application schools.
- Download Supplements to the Common Application. In addition to the main personal statement (essay) and short answer, many schools require supplemental essays or forms. Schools make their supplement to the common application available at different times, so keep checking over the next two months.
- Take Last-Minute SAT Subject Tests or SAT/ACT Tests. Yes, if you take the October SAT or ACT it will count toward an early decision application. The ACT also offers a test in September.

OCTOBER

- Finish Applications for Early Decision or Early Action. This is the time to get all your supplements complete, including not only essays, but also DVDs of performing arts talent or an art portfolio.
- Visit Colleges. It is not too late to visit colleges if you are still undecided. A AAA Travel Planner may be handy here - locations and colleges can be search for, to make "TripTiks," in drop-down menus on the auto club's site.

AAA Travel planner

- Request Transcripts. Allow at least four weeks before your application is due. Check with your high school for the specific requirements.
- Request SAT and ACT Scores: Allow four weeks before your application is due to avoid a late fee. (You can still send if you miss this deadline for an additional fee.)

SAT Scores to be sent

ACT Scores to be sent

Junior Timeline

Planning ahead



AUGUST

- You can see the full listing of test dates and plan out for the year when you will take what. Register early so you can take the test at your choice of location.

[SAT Test dates](#)

[ACT Test Dates](#)

- Develop a Plan for Junior Year. Identify two or three academic, social and extracurricular goals for yourself. Junior year is intense, so figure out where you want to spend your time before school starts, so you are not working in overdrive without a direction.

SEPTEMBER

- Get to Know Your Guidance Counselor. This is a great time to develop a relationship with your guidance counselor. Stop by just to say hi and see how his or her summer was.

OCTOBER

- Take the PSATs. The PSATs can only work in your favor if you do well, they will not hurt you if you do not do well. They are used to determine National Merit Scholars and give students an opportunity to get used to the SATs.
- Plan to Visit Colleges During Teachers' Conventions (for NJ students.) November is a great time to visit some schools. Pick one area and visit two to three schools, one large state, one small liberal arts and one in-between. Keep a

journal of likes and dislikes. Again, the AAA Trip Planner is a helpful tool.

Sophomore Timeline

AUGUST



- Develop a Plan for Sophomore Year. You should have a sense of what types of activities you enjoyed last year in school and identify two or three academic, social and extracurricular goals for yourself. If you do not enjoy any of the clubs at school, perhaps you can start one that interests you. It is a good idea to do as a sophomore so you will have enough time to grow the club when you are in school.
- Sophomore year can be difficult, especially if you are taking a lot of challenging classes, so figure out where you want to spend your time before school starts, so you are not working in overdrive without a direction.

SEPTEMBER

- Get to Know Your Guidance Counselor. Guidance counselors are a great resource for you during the high school years and it is a good idea to get to know them early so they can support you as well as get to see how you have progressed through high school.

OCTOBER

- Take the PSATs. The PSATs can only work in your favor if you do well, they will not hurt you if you do not do well. Sophomore year is a good time to determine a baseline for your scores, so you know where you will need to focus in the coming years.
- The test scores may also give you an idea if there are any underlying problems regarding test taking that you will need to address before junior year.

NOVEMBER

- If you are taking honors or AP science, speak with your teacher about taking the SAT subject test in the spring. Find out if it is feasible and what you will need to do to cover everything that will be on the test so you can score well. It will be a big relief if you can get one test out of the way before junior year.

Changes in SAT Subject test policy

How this may affect you

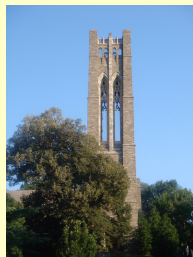
Here is a link to an article about the changes in the SAT subject test requirements. Georgetown and Harvard now both only require two tests instead of three. There are also several good links within the article about the SAT requirements by school.

[Changes in SAT II's policies](#)

CBM Blog Report

Swarthmore

I spent last week as one of the faculty for the Independent Educational Consultant Association's (IECA) annual Summer Institute for people relatively new to the field of educational consulting who want to learn more about the business. The Institute was held at Swarthmore College, a small liberal arts college (1,500) about 22 minutes outside of Philadelphia. I lived there for a week and got to experience the college intimately. ...



Swarthmore
Cathedral

[Click here to read more from the CBM Blog....](#)

Forbes Magazine

College Rankings 2010

Here is the latest ranking from Forbes Magazine taken from student polls. As with all rankings, it is good to take them with a grain of salt. The great thing about this list is that you can click on the school and it gives you a lot of great statistical data about the school. Click here for the full report.

[Forbes 2010 Rankings](#)

Enjoy the rest of the summer!

Sincerely,

Lisa Bleich and Diane Forman
College Bound Mentor, LLC
www.collegeboundmentor.com

Follow us on:

[Find us on Facebook](#) | [Follow us on Twitter](#)

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to djpcox@charter.net by lisa@collegeboundmentor.com.

[Update Profile/Email Address](#) | Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



College Bound Mentor, LLC | 15 Normandy Dr. | Westfield | NJ | 07090