

COVID - 19 Junior College Admissions FAQ

When should I take my SAT/ACT now that the spring exams have been canceled?

If it is safe, the SAT will now be offered in August, September, October, November, and December. This will give you three opportunities to take the exam prior to a November 1 early deadline, and five chances to take the exam prior to a January 1 regular deadline. Registration information will be sent to students with College Board accounts around May 26.

The ACT has not canceled the June exam yet. If that is canceled there has been talk of them offering it in July, even though July is not normally a test date for New York State. ACT has exams scheduled for September, October, and December. Fall registration opens in July.

Please see here for the latest from Collegeboard:

<https://pages.collegeboard.org/sat-covid-19-updates>

Please see here for the latest from ACT:

<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid19.html>

Are more colleges moving to test optional admissions plans for the Class of 2021?

Yes - the list is changing daily, but more and more colleges are going test optional. This means that SAT/ACT will not be required as part of their admission criteria. Fairtest.org is keeping a running list:

<https://www.fairtest.org/university/optional>

[College Are Dropping SAT/ACT Requirements](#)

What if the fall SAT/ACT are canceled again?

Both companies are preparing online exams that can be taken from home as a fall back option. They would model it after the AP exams this year.

How do I “visit” colleges now that they are closed?

Colleges have always included virtual tours on their respective websites, but they are enhancing them and coming up with creative ways to show you their campus through TikTok and other social media outlets.

Additionally, they are coming together for virtual college fairs. We recommend that you peruse the college website and also utilize the websites below. The Strive Scan college fair has received wonderful feedback and is running now through May 8.

[Strive Scan Virtual College Fair](#)

[Virtual College Events.](#)

[YouVisit](#)

[ECampus Tours](#)

[Campus Tours](#)

Now that all activities are canceled for the Spring how do I utilize the Spring and Summer to make my application stand out?

All juniors across the country (and the world) are in the same position and the colleges recognize this. Georgia Tech and Tulane both wrote excellent articles below to give you some advice. The Counseling Department's advice is to think about how you might be able to help someone else through this difficult time. Maybe it is tutoring a friend or elementary student who is struggling with distance learning, or reaching out to your lonely grandparent, or helping your little brother or sister while mom and dad are working. These are small acts of kindness that can make a big difference. Additionally, there are still a number of ways to receive community service hours virtually. Feel free to reach out to Ms. Halloran and/or your counselor for more opportunities.

This is an excerpt from a Tulane University blog:

I'm a junior in high school and all of my spring extracurricular activities have been canceled. We totally get it. There are no sports. There is no spring musical. There is no dance recital. Listen, if you include on your Common Application activities section a list of all the books you read for pleasure during your social distancing, I'll love it. Get creative. Maybe you love to paint and you go Instagram Live a few times and teach people to paint? You could be the next Bob Ross. Or maybe you're a soccer player and you do a live video teaching people how to dribble a soccer ball on your own? Teaching guitar lessons? Yes please. We will love seeing anything you did during this whacky time. That also goes for doing nothing related to the above. If you have to care for siblings, make food for the family, or just need some personal mental time or space, that is fine with us too.

Full blog: [Tulane Coping During Corona](#)

Georgia Tech Blog - Advice for Juniors
[Being Seen - This One is for Juniors](#)

How do I get in touch with admissions staff?

College admissions reps are available now more than ever through email. Go to the college website and find the Long Island admissions representative and send them an email with a question you may have about the college. Tulane offers wonderful examples that apply to all colleges in this blog post: [Tulane You've Got Questions, We've Got Answers](#). College admissions reps are meeting with students through Zoom and offering virtual information sessions. Also consider following your potential colleges on social media. This way you can stay up to date on any virtual programs they may be hosting.

What should I be doing now that schools are closed?

- #1 - Focusing on your mental health and staying healthy.
- #2 - Keeping up with your school work as best you can.

If, **and only if**, #1 and #2 are in good shape you could start working on the following to help prepare you for the college process:

- Start drafting a college essay. This can be a very rough draft at this point.
 - Think about what is important to you, your values and what you love to do.
 - Do not over think it. Be yourself and be real. Do not try to impress. They want to learn about who you are.
- Begin to fill out the main sections of the Common Application - do not start the supplemental materials yet. They may change over the summer. The online application is available at www.commonapp.org
- Start compiling your list of activities.
- Select two teachers to write letters of recommendation for you. Reach out to them through email politely requesting a letter and asking what they need from you. You will invite them through Naviance in the fall.
 - See here for more on how to select teachers: [Letter of Rec Myth/Fact/Tip Sheet](#)

Should I write my college essay about Coronavirus?

Here is another excerpt from the Tulane blog:

Should I write my college essay about coronavirus? Too soon to tell, but I am going to guess maybe not. Come November, if we get 15,000 essays about it, it will be super tough to stand out. It also might give application readers some serious fatigue. A lot of us, at that point, will be ready to put this all behind us. Instead, now is a great time to do some journaling. Write about your thoughts, feelings, emotions right now. Maybe this moment of pause has given you a different worldview? A different academic passion? Some of those journal entries you are writing might turn into a fabulous essay. It's not about the destination, it's about the journey, and you are on a major life journey right now.

Will colleges be looking to admit more students who don't need financial aid since they may be affected economically?

This will vary by school, but colleges are a business and operate as such. Colleges claim that they make decisions based on academic merit, but finances can play a role in admissions decisions. With everything else being equal, if a college is deciding between a student that can pay in full or a student for whom they need to provide aid they may be enticed to accept the full paying student. If there is a particular college you are interested in, feel free to contact the admissions and/or financial aid office and ask any questions you may have.

How can I prepare for the SAT/ACT virtually?

Khan Academy is Collegeboard's official partner. www.khanacademy.com

North Shore has a partnership with Method Test Prep: www.methodtestprep.com/northshore

Method Test Prep Webinar:

[ACT/SAT COVID-19 Webinar](#)

Will colleges accept AP scores from 2020 exams?

This can vary by school or exam and can change at any point in time. Please see the link below for a list. The majority of schools appear to not be changing their policy. The best source for up-to-the-minute information is the individual colleges themselves.

<http://pages.prompt.com/colleges-that-accept-2020-ap-credit#change>