

Riley Baker Educational Consulting

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May 2014

1st – Common reply date for college enrollment

3rd – **SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests**

5th - 16th - **AP exams**

Juniors – work on resume

Juniors – speak to advisor about military colleges or ROTC programs

Seniors – notify the colleges that you will not attend

June 2014

7th – **SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests**

(register by 5/9 - late registration 5/13)

14th – **ACT and ACT plus Writing**

(register by 5/9 - late registration 5/23)

Seniors – thank teachers and others who helped you

Seniors – thank scholarship providers for aid

Seniors – have your final transcript sent to your college

College Visit Tips for Parents

Touring prospective colleges is a rite of passage for many families and an important part of the college admissions process. Here are some tips to help parents plan a successful college visit trip.

Be selective. Less is actually more when it comes to college visits; visiting twenty colleges (or more!) can be counterproductive and confusing. Instead, focus on visiting the schools that seem like the best fits for your child while being sure to include a good mix of admissions safe bets, realistic matches, and reach colleges.

Be realistic. Most students find campus visits tiring and a bit overwhelming. Aim for no more than two campus visits each day; one visit a day is even better, unless the colleges are located very close to each other. Allow *at least* three hours for each visit, including time to wander around campus and explore the surrounding area after the official tour. A visit may take up most of the day if your child is going to be meeting with an admissions officer or a faculty member, sitting in on a class, or attending a more formal admissions presentation.

Be flexible. Almost every parent who has ever accompanied their child on a college tour has a story about the college (or colleges) where their child simply would not get out of the car. When this happens, just calmly move on to the next school.

Blend into the background. A campus visit is a chance for your child to “try on” their future. When students imagine themselves attending college, mom and dad

are *not* part of the picture. So, blend into the background while you’re on campus. Let your child ask the questions and walk up front next to the tour guide, while you hang in the back of the tour group. Most important of all: give your child some space and time to walk around campus on her own after the formal tour, without you tagging along.

If your child will be interviewing with admissions while you are on campus, remember

this is your child’s interview, not yours! While most admissions officers will invite parents in to say hello at the end of the interview, this is not an invitation to chime in with things you think admissions should know about your child, or to ask what your child’s

chances of admission are. Similarly, if you and your child will be talking to a coach, visiting academic departments, or stopping by the office of disabilities services, let your child take the lead. This will help your child develop the self-confident, pro-active interpersonal skills that are necessary for college success.

Visit the financial aid office, the security office, and the career services office. Few families think to pay a visit to the financial aid office, the security office, or career services. These stops, however, give parents the chance to ask important questions about financial aid, campus safety, and the school’s record of helping graduates find jobs. This is a good time to “divide and conquer.” Let your child explore the campus alone while you visit these offices for a quick chat.

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Careers for Environmental Science/ Environmental Studies Majors

agricultural agent
animal scientist
aquarium or science museum
director of education
biochemist
ecologist
environmental activist
environmental attorney
environmental consultant
environmental planner
environmental researcher
environmental scientist
forest ranger
government regulator
natural resource specialist
outdoor adventure educator
pollution engineer
range manager
soil scientist
state park resource ecologist
toxicologist
waste management technician
wildlife biologist



Other related majors include global studies, forestry, urban planning, political science, geography, geology, environmental engineering, oceanography, soil science, or petroleum engineering. More information is available at the Bureau of Labor Statistics website at www.bls.gov.
(photo from bls.gov site)

Majors: Environmental Sciences/Studies

Green is in! If you're interested in preserving our natural resources for future generations, you can get the credentials you'll need to make a difference through a major in environmental science or environmental studies. Environmental science programs focus on the natural sciences, while environmental studies also considers the political, economic and social aspects of life as they relate to environmental issues. The major you select will be determined by the path you hope to take in making a difference.

Environmental scientists conduct research to identify and remedy the sources of pollutants that affect people, wildlife and the environment. Therefore, they need a working knowledge of biology, chemistry and physics. Studies in atmospheric science, geology, hydrology and ecology are supplemented by courses that emphasize the student's primary area of concern. Laboratory research, field experiences and summer research internships all help to provide the hands-on experiences that are vital for practitioners in this field. Computer skills are essential—environmental scientists are often called on for data analysis or are expected to be able to use digital mapping and geographic information systems (GIS). Because much of the work is collaborative in nature, environmental scientists should perfect their writing and speaking skills.

Environmental science majors often find jobs in areas such as environmental protection, natural resource management or environmental health. The many areas of specialization include air quality management, aquaculture, biodiversity, coastal management, conservation biology, ecotourism, environmental education, fire ecology and hazardous waste management. Still other specializations are hydrology, landscape architecture, meteorology, natural resource management, outdoor education, range management, recreation & parks, soil science, sustainable development, wetlands science and wildlife science. Many individuals find work in large and small environmental consulting

firms, or in governmental agencies or education. A master's degree is needed for most entry-level research and teaching positions; a Ph.D. for higher level research and college instructors. Learn more about careers in environmental science at www.enviroeducation.com and check out opportunities for paid internships at the website of the Environmental Careers Organization at www.eco.org.

Environmental studies majors are more focused on the impact of man on the environment. In addition to courses in the natural sciences such as biology, chemistry and geology, environmental studies majors take about half their coursework in the social sciences and humanities. Environmental studies emphasizes a problem-solving approach, focusing on the economic, political and social aspects of tackling environmental issues. Environmental studies professionals may study global issues such as the greenhouse effect or acid rain, as well as more local and national problems.

In addition to science courses, environmental studies programs may include courses in environmental health, energy policy, wildlife management, land use planning, environmental politics and environmental philosophy and ethics. The focus of these programs differs from university to university, so look closely at the college's catalogue of courses when choosing a college for this major.

As with environmental science majors, research experiences, field work and internships greatly enhance student learning. Although entry level careers are available for people holding a bachelor's degree, further graduate training and specialization broadens career options.

Environmental studies majors may find careers in environmental law, fisheries and wildlife management, or in community recycling and conservation programs. Others work as park naturalists, environmental educators, journalists, or as team members in toxic waste disposal or environmental organizations.

Financial Matters: Keeping College Costs in Check



The reality of the high cost of college is just now hitting some families as they've pored over financial aid offers from colleges. At many schools, self-help is up and gift aid is down. That means that colleges are offering less in the way of tuition discounts or grants, and are expecting families to assume a greater part of the college financial burden. Parents may pay expenses from savings and wages, students through part-time employment, and both parents and student may meet some expenses through educational loans. No wonder families are eager to find ways to cut college costs. Here are some ideas that you might want to investigate:

- Graduate on-time or even early. In order to earn a bachelor's degree in four years, students need to choose appropriate classes and stick with them. Dropping a class

may leave you with too few credits, thereby lengthening the time you will need to spend in college. Changing majors or double-majoring may also add to the length of your stay. Consider using the summer to explore possible majors through internships or shadowing. No idea about your intended major? Career testing might help point you to possible careers (and majors) that fit well with your interests, personality and abilities.

- Get a jump on credits through AP classes or CLEP exams. Passing scores on AP exams taken in high school may lead to college credit, while high scores on the College Level Examination Program can shorten the time you need to earn your degree. Check out www.collegeboard.org for a list of schools that award credit through CLEP exams.
- Consider taking some of your credits at a nearby community college during summer breaks. Community college classes are generally less expensive per credit. Make sure that they'll be acceptable to your college before registering for outside courses.

- Get a job. Part-time employment provides extra structure to the college student's day and yields extra money to meet college expenses. Most college students are able to work 10-15 hours per week during the school year at a job on or near campus.
- Investigate college meal plan options. Choose a plan that fits you—there's no point in paying for meals that you will not eat.
- Check out housing options—double rooms are less expensive than singles; triples or quads will save you even more money. After your first year, consider applying for an RA (resident advisor) position. RAs often receive their room for free in return for service.
- Textbooks are expensive. Buy used books whenever possible and sell them back at the end of the course if you will not need them later on.

Attending college pays handsome dividends, but students and families should be careful not to take on so much debt that their future options become limited by the need to repay college loans.

College Visit Tips for Parents (continued from p.1)

Keep an open mind. Some colleges will likely resonate with you, but not your child – and vice versa. Expect this, and try to keep an open mind. Be careful about assuming that your reaction is the right one, or rushing to voice your opinions before your child expresses his or hers. Help your child reflect on the visit by asking open-ended questions about what she saw, heard, and thought while on campus. Listen carefully to your child's reactions

before sharing your own impressions.

Take notes. Your child will probably forget to write down the name of the admissions officer he or she interviews with, whether the school uses the Common Application or not, the average SATs of admitted students, or whether the archeology department has field opportunities. Take a small notebook with you on college visits, and keep track of the information that

matters most to your child.

Enjoy this journey with your child. Yes, this trip is about visiting colleges, but it is also a chance to spend some special time with your child before she heads off into adulthood. As you visit colleges together, try to build in some downtime and fun activities that have nothing to do with college and enjoy each other's company on this exciting journey.

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Use Summer for a Jump Start on Applications

Summer is a great time for rising seniors to get a head start on college applications. But all high school students can use the summer to begin preparing for the college admissions process.

This can mean pursuing interests you don't have time to explore during the school year. Sign up for a course at a local college in a subject that's not offered at your high school. If you're interested in history, volunteer at a museum. If you're thinking about becoming a veterinarian, get a job at an animal hospital or shadow your family's vet.

Need to take another SAT or ACT? Read widely to build your vocabulary and increase comprehension. Buy [The Official SAT Study Guide](#) or the [Real ACT Prep Guide](#) and take a practice test each week. If your schedule is packed with AP classes, sports and extracurricular activities during the school year, summer might be the best time for a test prep course.

Rising seniors who haven't finalized their college list should research prospective schools. You'll find lots of information about programs and student life on college websites. Contact alumni from your high school who attend colleges you're interested in and ask what they like and don't like about their school.

Rising juniors and sophomores, if possible, visit colleges that sound interesting. While you won't see many college students, especially on smaller campuses that don't have summer sessions, there will be other high school students visiting, and you can check out future classmates. A summer campus visit doesn't truly convey what the school is like during the school year, but you can always return to the schools after you're admitted to sit in on classes, spend the night in a dorm, experience the dining hall and get a real feel for college life.

This is also the time to complete one application that can serve as a prototype. Getting the information regarding all your academic honors, extracurricular activities and community service on paper now will lower the stress level when you're facing application deadlines in fall. Starting your application essays early means you'll have time to rewrite them and make sure you're submitting your best work that truly reflects who you are.

Every task that gets done now means one less thing to worry about later. But it's also important to take time for fun. The college admission process can be stressful; the best way to avoid burnout is to give yourself permission to spend some time doing whatever you enjoy.