

Stuyvesant High School

Seung C. Yu, Principal

COVID-19 ADDENDUM

The coronavirus pandemic has been a major factor in our lives since March of 2020. While we are thrilled to see all of our students back this fall, we know that for many students, readjusting to our return has not been without its challenges. Know that we will continue to communicate to our college admissions representatives the many challenges our students have faced since the start of the pandemic, and how Stuyvesant High School's instructional model and grading system adapted over the past two years. Remember also that students who were specifically impacted by COVID in a meaningful way will have the option to share this information in their eventual college applications, as both the Common Application, and Coalition Application, offer a specific optional section for this purpose that students can use if they wish.

Please also keep in mind the following:

- It appears likely that many colleges and universities will continue to utilize [test-optional admissions policies](#) next year as they have for the most recent admissions cycles. Students who are unable to take the ACT or SAT due to COVID, or who end up unhappy with their test scores, should be able to apply to a host of colleges and universities without penalty. But, preparing for and taking either the ACT or SAT before the fall of senior year would be wise for all of our students, as strong test scores still have value in a test-optional admissions process.
- We plan to offer a School-Day SAT for Juniors on March 23; check your email and Stuy's weekly updates for details in the coming months.
- While opportunities to connect with college admissions representatives in person or to physically visit campuses have begun to return, for some colleges, they may continue to be restricted for the spring term. Please remember that colleges and universities will continue to host a wide variety of virtual opportunities to explore and connect with their institutions through their websites...virtual tours, info sessions, live chats with admissions and /or students, virtual class observations, etc.
- We plan to host our annual college admission events in the spring term (Junior College Information Night, Hidden Ivy Panel, CUNY Night, etc.) but as of November 2021, it has not yet been decided if these will be in-person, virtual, or hybrid events. We have also not yet determined if we can host our annual in-person college fair due to current NYC DOE social distancing guidelines and uncertainty regarding how many admissions offices will send reps for in-person fairs next term. Check your email and Stuy's weekly updates in the coming months.

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Dear Students and Parents/Guardian of the Class of 2023:

Before you know it, you will be completing the first term of your junior year at Stuyvesant High School and will begin the exciting process of selecting a college. With so many amazing colleges and universities within the United States and abroad, narrowing one's options is not an easy task. The college selection process requires your time, commitment, and self-assessment of your educational, personal, and professional goals.

The College Handbook was created specifically for you, the Stuyvesant High School junior, to help you through the college selection process. Please take time to read the entire Handbook sometime this year. Also, refer to the enclosed College Planning Calendar so that you are aware of what lies ahead.

Remember that you, *the student*, are the most important person in this process...by far! But, choosing a college is also a family decision. Please share this Handbook with your parents so that they can be informed and can fully support you on your journey to higher education.

Sincerely,

Mr. Jeffrey C. Makris
Director of College Counseling

Ms. Casey J. Pedrick
Assistant Principal, Pupil Personnel Services

Stuyvesant High School is a member of NACAC and abides by the NACAC's Guide to Ethical Practice in College Admission



National Association for
College Admission Counseling

<https://www.nacacnet.org/>

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN CREATED SOLELY FOR THE USE OF STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AND PARENTS

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INTRODUCTION

The college selection and application process at Stuyvesant High School begins in the spring semester of your junior year. The College Office will organize a series of events for our juniors and their families, and our college counselors will begin meeting with juniors individually or with their families. Also, your school (aka guidance) counselor will start writing your Secondary School Report (SSR).

The person most responsible for successfully completing this process is YOU. We are here to advise and support you, but you must make the important decisions and follow through in meeting all of the colleges' various requirements and deadlines. We suggest you designate a specific place at home to keep all college related materials. Having a separate folder for each college you are considering or creating a spreadsheet will help you organize your information and/or materials. Use your Naviance tools, read emails from your college counselors, and make sure to save a copy of everything you submit to the colleges.

Please remember that choosing a college is about more than chasing the most selective college that you hope will admit you. *College is a match to be made, not a prize to be won.* Each student should seek out the colleges that will best fit their individual learning style, values, personal interests, academic and professional goals, etc. [Try to keep in mind that exactly where you go to college is less important than you think it is...it is what you do while in college that matters.](#) If you are engaged in your education and committed to having a truly valuable learning experience both inside and outside of the classroom, you will set yourself up for personal and professional success no matter where you go to college, whichever path you choose.

And remember, choosing a college is an adventure...have fun along the way!

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NAVIANCE STUDENT

Naviance Student is an online system that allows students to explore colleges and majors, review Stuyvesant's historical college application data, and stay informed regarding important college planning tasks and events. Seniors will use Naviance to indicate where they'll be applying to college, and our college counselors will use the system to submit required application documents to colleges.

Students receive emails with instructions regarding Naviance account activation starting in the 9th grade until their account is activated:

Step 1- Activate your Naviance Student account.

- Visit the following link: <https://student.naviance.com/stuyvesant>
- Click on "I need to register" in the "are you new here?" box on the right side of the screen
- Enter your unique registration code

Then, simply follow the steps to confirm your email address and create a password. We recommend that you continue to use your stuy.edu email as you will need a professional email address for your eventual college applications; your Naviance and Common Application email addresses must match.

You can then log in to Naviance at any time via the link below:

<https://student.naviance.com/stuyvesant>

Step 2- Log in to your account and enter information for your parent (s).

- Click on "About Me"
- Click on "my account"
- Click on "parents/guardians" and then "edit"
- Enter as much information as you can and **make sure to include a working email address**, then click "save"
- Repeat for parent 2, if applicable
- Email either of the College Office secretaries to request that he/she activate your parents' Naviance account. Enter **"PLEASE ACTIVATE PARENT ACCOUNT"** in the subject of the email, and include only **your name** and **official class** in the body of the email.

Ms. DeMasi: ademasi2251@stuy.edu

JUNIOR YEAR- Complete the SSR Survey and College Planning Survey. School counselors will utilize the SSR Survey to prepare their letters of recommendation. Completing this survey thoroughly and thoughtfully will help them to write the best possible recommendation for you. The college counselors will use the College Planning Survey to learn more about you and what is most important to you in your college search process. Students can access the surveys by clicking on "About Me" and clicking on "My Surveys". Students do not need to complete the surveys in one sitting.

Also under the About Me tab, the "journal" feature allows you to organize all your thoughts and plans in one online location where you can always reach it. One of the best features about the journal is that you can have your journal open on one tab as you explore a college website on another tab. You can take notes or cut and paste information from the website directly into your journal. Keeping all of your research notes in one location will help you write that very important why this college or program section of your application.

Please check to make sure that your profile and test scores/gpa are correct. If there is an error, notify your college counselor.

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Careers Tab: In this section, you will be able to explore careers and complete personality questionnaires by completing the career cluster finder and the career interest profiler. The questionnaires are designed to help you learn about yourself and what sort of careers might serve you best. You can either accept or reject this information, but you might find it useful in helping you think about which universities you might wish to explore in greater detail. With this information in hand, you can use the explore careers & clusters to learn more about a variety of careers and establish a favorites list. A variety of colleges will be recommended with each list.

Colleges Tab: In this section, you will find an enormous amount of resources. Explore it thoroughly. Check the college resources link for a host of different links to interesting websites on everything from financial aid to careers in the military to the Common Application. Check the scholarships link for information on numerous scholarship opportunities. Explore and have fun as you learn more about various colleges.

Where you will spend most of your time as you start the college search process is in “the colleges I’m thinking about” section. These are colleges that you are interested in or your college counselor has entered into Naviance for you to explore as a result of your the individual or family college consultation meeting.

In “the colleges I’m thinking about” section, you can use the visit website link to go directly to the university website. Since it opens as a separate tab, you can open your journal on the About Me page and take notes as you explore the website. When you close the tab for the university website, you will still be in your Naviance account and so can continue your exploration on another university.

You can also click the name of the university in the list. This will take you to specific information provided by the colleges to Naviance and will give you Stuyvesant specific information. Admissions statistics for Stuyvesant’s classes of 2014 -2021 are currently available, and data for the class of 2022 will be available by mid- July. These numbers can help you evaluate your respective chances of admission at various universities. Please understand, however, that the criteria listed in this section accounts for only two points of information: GPA and test scores. Many colleges practice a holistic admissions process that includes many additional factors. The General info, Admissions, Financial Aid, Majors and Degrees, and Student Life tabs are all active and contain a great deal of useful information.

The “scattergrams” is a visual feature for you to understand our college acceptance statistics. Scattergrams currently present information since 2014, and information for the class of 2022 will be available this summer. The scattergrams/graphs include Stuyvesant High School data that plots the GPAs and ACT/SAT scores on a graph. You need to read the data critically because the graphs do not tell you about students’ strength of schedule, legacy status, athletic recruitment, or any other holistic factors. Please remember that the graphs only reflect numerical patterns, the only data that can be put on a graph, and do not reflect the full complexity of the admissions process. Talk to your college counselor. You might be more or less of a candidate than the graph initially suggests.

The “colleges I’m applying to” list: Once you have decided the schools to which you will apply in the fall, you need to compile a list of the schools in this section or get them switched from the *colleges I’m thinking about* section to the *colleges I’m applying to* section. You need to identify which application plan you will use to apply to each institution, based upon their available options and your preferences. You can read the general definitions of each application plan [here](#). You are responsible for making sure that the info listed in your “colleges I’m applying to” is correct. If you are apply to colleges through Early Decision and/or Early Action, or if your application is due on a special deadline date, you are responsible for informing your college counselor two (2) weeks before the due date. If you inform your college counselor less than two (2) weeks before the deadline, there is no guarantee that your application materials will be sent on time.

Once you have submitted your application, most universities upon receipt of your application will give you log in information for a web portal that will allow you to monitor the arrival of each part of your application: your transcript, senior year schedule, teacher recommendations, SSR, school report form, supplements, etc. You may also monitor through your Naviance Student account the sending status of your supporting documents. Please let your college counselor know if anything is missing. **Please remember that once documents are submitted it can still take anywhere from one to three weeks before this information will be reflected in a college’s portal.** If something appears missing, don’t panic. Your college counselor can help address the situation. Again, it is your responsibility to monitor the arrival of each portion of your application.

If you have received an *Early Decision* Admission offer: Remember if you receive an acceptance from an early decision college, you must notify all other colleges to which you have submitted an application that you have received such an offer and withdraw your application. You must also inform your college counselor in person or via email.

If you receive an *Early Action* Admission offer: You may choose to accept an early action admission offer. If so, follow the same

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procedure outlined above for those with an early decision offer. Or you may choose to wait for your other college admission decisions and make a decision by May 1.

Planner Tab: this is an electronic planner book. You are able to create your “goals” and “to-do-list.” Your college or school counselor might, on occasion, assign “tasks” to you, such as a meeting notice.

COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

JUNIOR YEAR

FALL TERM

- Prepare for the [PSAT/NMSQT](#). This exam is also **National Merit Scholarships Qualifying Test**. In addition, it is excellent practice for the SAT. PSAT or SAT scores **do not** appear on your high school transcript. Take the **PSAT/NMSQT** exam at Stuy in October. Use your results to prepare a study plan for the SAT
- Preliminary programming for spring term begins. Carefully consider the courses you will be taking. Make sure you are fulfilling all of your graduation requirements. Refer to your School Counselor and also your Stuyvesant Student Planner. It lists all graduation requirements and includes a check-off list for your completed courses.
- Start preparing for the [ACT](#) or [SAT](#). Aim to take at least the ACT or SAT (or you can try both) by the end of the junior year.
 - Financially disadvantaged students with meal codes A, 1 or 2 as determined by completion of school lunch forms are able to obtain SAT and ACT Fee Waivers. Please email to the College Office to obtain [fee waivers](#).
- In the winter, you can start your SSR Survey in Naviance Student, which your School Counselor will use to help prepare your letter of recommendation

SPRING TERM

- The College Counselors will conduct a presentation for juniors & their families before the February break
- College Counselors will meet begin to meet with juniors in their caseload. You will receive emails from your college counselor at the email address in your Naviance account – make sure that you check this address regularly.
- Register to take SAT or ACT exams, as applicable, and/or take the School Day SAT at Stuy on March 23.
- Parents will be invited via email to schedule spring term appointments for 30 -minute family meetings with their college counselor. **Family meetings will only be held in the junior year.**
- It’s a good idea to become familiar with the college resources available at school:
 - Become familiar with Naviance Student. It is also a rich resource of college information.
 - The Stuyvesant Library has a collection of College Reference Guides and Standardized Test prep materials.
 - There are many useful documents and resources in the College Office web page on [www.stuy.edu](#).
 - Please visit individual college websites. You may find virtual campus tours, admissions data, information regarding specific majors and program, etc.
- Preliminary programming for your senior year begins. Selective colleges favor students who succeed in challenging classes. The colleges will evaluate your senior year grades closely. Take the most difficult program you can successfully manage...but avoid overscheduling yourself!
- Carefully review your high school transcript for accuracy. All of your high school courses and Regents Examinations should be listed with correct grades. Make sure all corrections are brought to the attention of your School Counselor immediately.
- Research and apply for summer programs. Most programs are available online. See the opportunity bulletins posted in Talos.
- Discuss college options and financing your college education with your family.
- Make sure that you regularly check your stuy.edu email address. The College Office often emails important information to you. These messages are also stored in your Naviance account.
- Attend our massive annual college fair (TBD) with your parent(s). This is a very special event that affords you and your family an excellent opportunity to listen to and speak with the many college representatives who visit Stuyvesant.
- Ask two (**and only two**) of your teachers from different subject areas if they would be willing to write a college letter of recommendation for you. Be gracious – your recommenders spend a great deal of time and effort in support of your college applications and write only on a voluntary basis.
- Advanced Placement Exams are offered in May.
- If you are applying to a Service Academy (West Point, Annapolis, etc.), you must apply now to your Senator or Representative for a Service Academy Nomination.

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- Continue researching colleges that might be of interest to you.

SUMMER

- Have a productive summer...while also making sure to catch up on rest and have some fun! Consider a variety of activities such as summer study in a college program, research leading to a possible Regeneron project, volunteering, perhaps a job that will help you put aside money for college, etc.
- Research the various colleges. You want to find a college that will likely be a good fit for you. See the sections of this handbook “Factors to Consider in Selecting a College” as well as the resources listed at the end of this handbook.
- Begin your college essay. Most colleges make their supplements available over the summer as well. Start your college essays over the summer so that you can better meet the demands of the whole college process while maintaining excellent first term senior year grades.
- If possible, visit college campuses. The colleges appreciate a campus visit, a sign of demonstrated interest, which is a factor in the admissions process for many selective colleges.
- Create an account on www.commonapp.org in August. This is where most of your college applications will be submitted. Choose a username and password that is easy to remember; you will be logging in and out numerous times over the next few months. **DO NOT SUBMIT ANY APPLICATIONS OVER THE SUMMER, HOWEVER!**
- Remember to link your Common App with your Naviance Student account by entering your Common App email address on Naviance Student under the *Colleges I'm Applying To* tab. We will share explicit instructions for doing so in September.
- Work with your family to complete the net –price calculators for colleges of interest to determine potential affordability; this is a vital task for students who might apply to college via a binding Early Decision plan.

SENIOR YEAR

FALL TERM

- Complete the brief SSR update survey in Naviance only if you have any significant updates from the summer
- Senior College Night: the College Office staff will discuss important logistics and provide advice regarding the college application process. This event is for parents of seniors only. Watch for the email announcement. A student version of this assembly will be held during the school day.
- Check your transcript for accuracy. Your initial transcript, which includes all high school credits and grades up to the end of your junior year, will be sent to the colleges to which you apply. Request transcript corrections, if necessary.
- Ask two teachers (**and only two**) to write your college letters of recommendation, if you have not already done so.
- College counselors begin individual meetings with their students.
- College representatives will be visiting Stuyvesant and speaking about their schools. In many cases these are the same people who will be evaluating your college applications. You should attend sessions for colleges you know you want to apply to as well as colleges you would like to learn more about. These visits are listed in Naviance, and are regularly updated.
- If a representative’s presentation conflicts with one of your classes, make sure to ask your teacher for permission to attend and know that you are responsible for making-up any material missed during that class. Pick up a pass from the College Office for your teacher to sign if you will be missing class.
- Check www.collegeboard.org for upcoming SAT dates and registration deadlines, if applicable.
- Check [ACT College and Career Planning - Students and Parents | ACT](#) for upcoming ACT test dates and registration deadlines, if applicable.
- If you are applying to schools in the U.K., please know that Oxford and Cambridge have very early application deadlines. Other U.K. schools also have deadlines that are very early compared to typical American colleges’ Admissions deadlines. U.K. colleges require that students complete the UCAS application. Please visit <https://www.ucas.com/undergraduate> for more information regarding colleges in the U.K.
- In October, November, and December, you will be notifying the College Office of your college selections by completing the *Colleges I'm Applying To* section on Naviance Student.
- Regarding colleges that you are interested in applying to, it is crucial to thoroughly read the colleges’ Admissions Offices’ websites. You must provide each college with everything that it requires or recommends. In addition, you must adhere to all application deadlines, including application due dates and financial aid forms due dates.

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- If you plan to apply Early Decision (ED) and/or Early Action (EA), you must inform the College Office by **October 21, 2022**. It is critical that you indicate this on Naviance Student.
- For students applying EA/ED: The 2023-2024 FAFSA and CSS Profile will be due earlier than normal. The CSS-Profile is a financial aid form that is required by some colleges. It is available on the CollegeBoard site: [CSS Profile](#)
- Financial aid applicants can complete your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form at [fafsa.gov](#)
- If you plan to apply to colleges that have Rolling Admissions or a Priority, you must indicate such on Naviance Student at least one week before the deadline.
- Apply to college in the City University of New York (CUNY) system – General CUNY applications may be submitted online at <http://www2.cuny.edu/admissions/apply-to-cuny/>. Be sure to include your 9-digit OSIS number in your CUNY application.
- If you plan to apply to the Macaulay Honors College, the CUNY Honors Programs, you *do not* need to complete a separate general CUNY application. Your CUNY Macaulay Honors application will automatically be considered for general CUNY admission.
- You may apply to colleges in the State University of New York (SUNY) by using [The Common Application](#)
- Most colleges' deadlines for submitting your completed ED and/or EA applications are November 1 or November 15.
- Early applicants should hear from their colleges by mid-December. You may be “accepted,” “deferred,” or “denied.”
- If you are accepted via ED application and have received a financial aid package that makes attendance possible, you must withdraw your applications from all other colleges where you have an active application.
- If you are admitted to one or more colleges via the EA application(s), you may choose whether or not to withdraw some or all of their remaining college applications.
- Indicate all of your Regular Decision or Rolling Admissions colleges in Naviance by **January 3, 2023**

SPRING TERM

- As soon as your Fall 2022 final term grades are available, the College Office will automatically send them to all of the colleges to which you have applied. You do not need to bring any mid-year grades forms to the College Office.
- Use the Mid –Winter recess to visit the campuses of colleges that you have not yet seen.
- Make sure you have completed all financial aid applications/forms if you have not yet done so: FAFSA, CSS Profile, TAP Tuition Assistance Program – please visit www.hesc.ny.gov (Higher Education Services Corporation of New York State) for more information regarding the TAP Grant & Excelsior Scholarship, and any other financial aid forms your colleges may require.
- CUNY Macaulay Honors decisions are sent out in March.
- Most colleges have sent their regular decisions to applicants, and invite admitted students to visit their campuses.
- Evaluate your acceptance and financial aid offers so that you can decide where to attend college by the National Candidates Reply Date (May 1). You must accept admission to one, and only one, college by May 1 and make a tuition deposit. **You cannot submit more than one deposit.** If you do, you may forfeit your acceptance at both institutions; some colleges share lists of depositing students.
- Select a college in the “college that I am attending” in your Naviance Student account.
- Please be considerate of students on waiting lists of colleges that have accepted you, but that you do not wish to attend, and promptly decline these colleges' offers of admission.
- If the school you will be attending is different from the one listed in your TAP online application at www.hesc.ny.gov , change the school and correct any incorrect financial data as soon as possible. Tuition Assistance Program/Excelsior grants are potentially available for students who attend college in New York State.
- At the end of June, The College Office sends your final transcript and certification of graduation forms to the college that you will attend.
- Congratulations, Graduates!

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COLLEGE APPLICATION MATERIAL SUBMISSION CHART

Application Requirements	Responsible Party	How/When
Test Scores (SAT or ACT)	Student	Send via www.collegeboard.org or http://www.act.org/ OR SELF-REPORT SCORES WHERE APPLICABLE
Online Application	Student	Submit electronically by deadline
Essays & Supplemental Forms Supplemental Letters	Student	Submit electronically or mail by deadline
*SSR (Secondary School Report)	The College Office	Sent electronically with transcript by deadline w school counselor letter
*Transcript & Course Schedule	The College Office	Sent electronically with SSR by deadline
*School Profile	The College Office	Sent electronically with transcript and SSR
**Mid-Year Report (7 th Semester Grades)	The College Office	Sent once all fall semester grades are available.
*Teacher Letter of Recommendation	Teacher (NOT the College Office)	Usually via Naviance, web portal, or by mail by deadline

* In most cases, colleges will accept required school documents submitted soon after deadlines

**Some colleges will require first marking period grades for EA/ED/REA applicants in addition to the Mid-Year Report

INTRODUCTION TO COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

Virtually all Stuyvesant students will attend a four year college. Most Stuyvesant seniors apply to several colleges. The College Office recommends that students apply to a maximum of no more than a dozen colleges.

College admissions decisions are based primarily on:

- ✓ Your cumulative high school average through the end of your junior year and your 1st term senior year grades;
- ✓ The degree to which you have challenged yourself academically in high school. Very selective colleges will want to see that applicants have taken AP courses;
- ✓ Test scores on standardized exams such as the SAT and ACT
- ✓ Your SSR and teacher recommendations;
- ✓ Extracurricular activities and any noteworthy talents or achievements
- ✓ Demonstrated interest
- ✓ Geographic distribution;
- ✓ A personal essay;
- ✓ An interview, wherever offered;
- ✓ Other special factors include preference given to children of alumni, the ability to participate in varsity athletics, and applicants who would increase diversity on campus.

The College Office encourages you to explore and research a wide variety of colleges. Seek out colleges that are likely to be a good “fit” for you, colleges having the kind of academic and social climate that you envision for your college experience. Your final list of college choices should include a range of schools based on the probability that they would offer admission to Stuyvesant High School students with GPAs and SAT scores comparable to yours. Please log in

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to Naviance to view prior years' college admissions data or to research individual colleges via the "colleges" tab. Use these statistics to help in determining colleges that would be considered *reach, possible, and likely/safety schools* for you.

- "Reach" – colleges that you are very interested in but that may be very difficult for you to gain admission to
- "Possible" – colleges at which you have a possible chance of gaining admission based on prior years' college admissions data
- "Likely/Safety" – colleges that are extremely likely to offer you admission.
- Also keep in mind "financial safety" schools...colleges that will not only admit you, but that you know your family will be able to afford. For many families, those may be CUNY or SUNY schools.

Your high school average is based on all course grades, except those for physical education, through the end of your junior year. Your average will include all Regents classes that you had taken in middle school. At the end of your first term senior year, your Mid-Year grades are sent to all of the colleges to which you have applied that will review them; this includes essentially all Common App colleges. The colleges will carefully evaluate these grades to make admissions decisions. A strong first term senior year can absolutely work to your advantage. A poor senior year first term, on the other hand, will adversely affect your chances for admission.

College admissions offices favorably note Advanced Placement (AP) and other challenging classes taken in high school. According to one Dean of Admissions, "...the college will be looking foremost at the applicant's initiative in seeking out tough courses ... even at the expense of getting slightly lower grades." Choose a senior year program that is appropriately challenging, especially in the subject areas of interest to you. However, we want to caution you against taking a program that is too challenging for you to be successful. Do not overload your program with too many Advanced Placement courses. You need to be able to demonstrate an ability to succeed in your program all year long. And, your health always comes first.

Second term senior year grades and certification of graduation are reported to the college you are planning to attend. In some cases colleges request and evaluate your report card grades from the first or second marking period of your 2nd term senior year to assist in making a final decision. ***All colleges reserve the right to rescind your acceptance if your academic performance during your senior year does not meet its standards.***

APPLICATION OPTIONS

Early Application Options

- Early Decision (ED): Under the ED plan, a student may only apply via ED to one school, he or she may not apply to any other college via the ED plan. The acceptance decision is binding.
- Early Decision II (ED II): Many competitive colleges offer an ED II plan. Though ED II application deadline is later than ED deadline, the acceptance decision is also binding. If a student applied to College A via its ED plan, s/he may not apply to College B via its ED II plan until her/his application has been denied or deferred by College A.
- Early Action (EA): A student may apply to more than one college under an EA plan. The acceptance decision is not binding. Students have until May 1 to choose whether or not to attend.
- Restrictive Early Action: This is a less common non-binding early application plan that includes restrictions regarding where else a student may apply via EA or ED. Students have until May 1 to choose whether or not to attend.

It is the responsibility of each student to carefully read and adhere to each college's ED and EA policy. It is the student's and family's responsibility to make sure that they are complying with the various colleges' ED and EA policies, as well as the various colleges' ED policies with regard to Financial Aid. ED applicants seeking financial aid should complete the institution's net price calculator and discuss the results as a family before making an ED commitment.

Regular Decision

It usually refers to a particular deadline by which a college accepts the bulk of its applications. The deadline varies from college to college, which may be in December, January or even later into the spring. The acceptance decision is not binding. Once admitted, the applicant has until May 1 to inform the college whether or not s/he chooses to attend the college.

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Rolling Admissions

A Rolling Admissions procedure means that the college's admissions office will review a student's application as soon as the completed file is received. It is in the student's best interest to submit his or her application as early as possible before the new class is filled to its capacity, especially for popular public universities. Decisions may be issued within a few weeks after they are made. Students should consult the college websites for priority filing dates that, if met, often make students eligible for additional scholarships. Many state universities as well as some private colleges use the rolling admissions process. The acceptance decision is not binding. Students have until May 1 to choose whether or not to attend.

You can read more about each of these application plans [here](#).

STANDARDIZED TESTING INFORMATION

PSAT/NMSQT (Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test) examination measures critical reading skills, math problem-solving skills, and writing skills. Our juniors and sophomores take the test in October though only the junior year score will be submitted to the National Merit Scholarship Competition. If your score is at 99th percentile, you may become a National Merit Semi-Finalist. Merit Finalists are selected during senior year and may receive college scholarships. However, PSAT/NMSQT scores are *not* a part of the college application requirements.

SAT is an examination that takes approximately four hours to complete. The current SAT was administered in its new redesigned format for the first time in March 2016 and is primarily multiple-choice. The SAT essay was discontinued in 2021. Prior to the COVID pandemic, ACT or SAT scores were required by most four year colleges in their admissions process. We recommend that you take the ACT and SAT first as a junior. If necessary, take it again in the fall of your senior year. **SAT Subject Tests were eliminated in 2021.**

ACT is administered by ACT, Inc., is an alternative form of assessment to the SAT. In recent years, more students have taken the ACT than the SAT in the U.S. Neither test is preferred over the other by college admissions offices; students can use either exam. For more information about the exam, visit www.act.org.

It is the student's responsibility to ensure that your ACT or SAT Score Reports are sent to the colleges to which you are applying. That can be done via the test company website, although many colleges now accept [self-reported scores](#). In general, colleges will consider your highest scores on each individual section of the SAT.

Fee Waivers for the SAT and ACT tests are available to financially disadvantaged students with meal codes A, 1 or 2 as determined through annual completion of [income verification forms](#). Eligible students may obtain these fee waivers from the College Office.

Testing Accommodations:

- Sunday Testing is available only for students who cannot take a test on Saturday because of religious reasons. Please visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/special-circumstances/request-sunday-testing> and/or <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html> for information regarding Sunday testing.
- Students with a documented disability may be able to receive testing accommodations. Please visit <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/special-circumstances/students-with-disabilities> and/or <http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/accommodations.html> for more information.
- **Wait list (SAT)** or **Standby Testing (ACT)** are possibilities for students who miss the late registration deadline. There is never a guarantee that you will actually be seated for an exam via wait list or as a standby. Test centers accept standbys on a first-come first-served basis only if they have sufficient space, testing materials, and staff. Avoid standby testing if at all possible! Consult the appropriate test company website for details
- **Rushing Scores:** The College Board and act.org provide "score rushing" services for an additional fee. Rushing your score will usually speed up delivery of your scores to colleges by up to a week or a week and a half; however, *not all colleges will accept rushed scores*. Also, rushed reporting does not mean rushed scoring. Plan ahead and schedule your tests in a timely fashion to avoid having to rush your scores!

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Stuyvesant High School as Test Center Code:	33684 (SAT); 207200 (ACT)
Stuyvesant High School CEEB Code:	334070 (Both ACT and SAT)

WHAT COLLEGES LOOK FOR IN APPLICANTS

- **Transcript**

Your cumulative average, the degree to which you have challenged yourself in high school, and the trend of your academic progress are the three factors colleges consider when evaluating candidates for admission. It is your responsibility to carefully read your transcript to ensure that it is correct

- **Standardized Tests**

Your scores on standardized exams such as the ACT or SAT may be part of the admissions process for many colleges.

- **Personal Statement/Supplemental Essays**

Your personal statement (college essay) is a very important part of your college application. The essay affords you an opportunity to express your individuality; it will help to differentiate you from other candidates with similar averages and test scores. You may write about your special interests, talents, and influential experiences and people. If your only extracurricular activity is a job, you might write about how your job has been meaningful to you and/or your family. The general rule is “The essay should be something only you could write”—it should be as specific as possible, avoid generalities, and be in your voice. It might be helpful to look at one of the many guides available regarding writing the successful college essay.

While many students may utilize the Common Application and therefore only need one primary college essay (personal statement) for most colleges, many Common App colleges also ask for school specific supplements. Look at these very carefully once you know where you might apply, and give each supplement your full attention as you would your primary essay. *Many colleges consider these to be more important than your personal statement!* Finally, begin these essays over the summer. The Common Application typically becomes available over the summer. Writing essays is very time consuming, it is in your best interest to complete a satisfactory draft over the summer.

- **Recommendations**

Many colleges require two teacher recommendations. Teacher rec letters should come from two different major subjects from the 10th or 11th grade. Another significant adult who supervised you in activities such as research, community service, employment, the arts, athletics, etc. could also write a letter in support of your application. These supplementary letters of recommendation should specifically address your exceptional achievements in that specific field and should provide significant additional information not otherwise present in your application. Supplemental recs are not a required part of the application process.

- **Senior Grades**

Your senior year grades are looked at very closely by the colleges, as is your senior year academic program. A challenging program is necessary for the most selective colleges. Most selective colleges will require mid-year senior grades. If you are an ED/EA applicant, the college(s) you apply to may request your fall semester first marking period grades in their evaluation of your candidacy. If you are a Regular Decision applicant, colleges may even

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request your second term senior year 1st and/or 2nd marking period grades to aid in their evaluation of your candidacy. In addition, colleges often review the courses you are taking second term senior year to make sure that you are continuing to meet their standards of academic rigor.

• **Activities/Extracurriculars**

Colleges are also interested in what you do outside of the classroom. A student who has shown significant dedication and commitment to one or two extracurricular activities is very desirable. In addition, colleges want to see that students have made productive use of their summer vacations. Your accomplishments outside of the classroom help some selective colleges make distinctions between otherwise similarly well qualified candidates.

• **Demonstrated Interest**

Generally speaking, many colleges want to see that students have shown an interest in them, beyond submitting the application. This is due to their need to predict, maintain or improve their “yield”...the percentage of admitted students who enroll. Yield is a critical statistic for many colleges. This is particularly true of small to medium sized colleges. Demonstrating interest in a college can be done in a variety of fashions, including a campus visit, meeting their representatives at college fairs, at Stuy’s high school visits, interviews, etc.

FACTORS TO CONSIDER IN THE COLLEGE SEARCH

Choosing a college is one of the most important decisions you will make as you prepare to graduate from high school. In order to make an intelligent choice, you need to gather a great deal of information and to consider your specific requirements. Considerations such as who you are, what you hope to achieve, and the kind of environment and location in which you want to live are all important factors to consider in creating a list comprised of colleges that would likely be a good “match”, or “fit”, for you. Try to learn as much as possible about various colleges: which schools offer the kinds of programs in which you are interested, what their application requirements are, how much it will cost to finance your education at those schools, and so forth. The ideal school for your best friend may not be the best school for you; neither will schools with “name brand recognition” necessarily be the best fit for you. It is important to judge a school by more than its reputation. The questions below are designed to help you evaluate many of the factors you should consider when choosing colleges to which you might apply.

Your Interests

1. What fields and subjects interest you the most? If you are unsure about your academic interests, that’s fine! It might then be best to look for colleges that offer a wide range of programs, or colleges where advisors are more accessible.
2. Why do you really want to go to college? What do you expect to gain from the experience?
3. Based on your academic history, what do you feel are your strengths?

Location

1. Do you prefer a school in a large city, a college town close to a city, or a rural setting far from a major city?
2. Do you prefer a school close to home where you will be able to visit home easily for a weekend or short breaks?
3. Perhaps a school where it’ll be easy and financially feasible for your family to visit you?

Academics

1. Does the college offer the program(s) in which you are interested?
2. Is the college known for a particular program?
3. What are the school’s policies regarding course requirements, selecting a major, double majoring, and cross registering at neighboring schools?
4. What are the strengths or weaknesses of the program(s) in which you are interested?
5. What is the student-to-teacher ratio? How many students are there in a typical class?
6. Are most classes taught by full-time professors or by graduate students?
7. How accessible are the college’s professors? Do undergraduates have the opportunity to assist professors in their research?
8. Is there a core curriculum? Are there distribution requirements? Are decisions on curriculum left largely up to the student?
9. Does the school accept Advanced Placement credit? Is there a minimum score needed?
10. Is there an honors program available at the school? Who is eligible to participate?
11. Does the college offer/encourage study abroad or at another U.S. campus?

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12. What percentage of freshmen return for the sophomore year?
13. Do most of the graduates go on to graduate school immediately upon graduation? What is the rate of acceptance at medical, law, or business schools?
14. How many graduates go right into the marketplace? Is there a career services office that assists students with finding summer internships and jobs after graduation? Which firms recruit on campus?
15. Are there opportunities for hands-on work experiences while students are in college? Do any of these pay a salary or stipend?

Size and Student Population

1. Smaller schools may be more nurturing and supportive whereas larger schools may offer greater diversity, both academically and socially. Some small colleges belong to consortia that enable them to offer greater resources while maintaining their supportive atmospheres.
2. Is the college small (fewer than 1000 students), medium-sized, or large (more than 15,000)? How often will you have large lecture style classes versus small interactive classes? Does the college have graduate students?
3. Is the college ethnically/racially/culturally/socioeconomically diverse? In what way?
4. Does the college attract students from all over the U.S. and the world or are the majority of students from the immediate region?
5. What are the students like? Historically, what kinds of students are interested in this particular college and why?
6. What kinds of student organizations are active on campus (political groups, college newspaper, student government, volunteer/mentoring groups, etc.)?
7. What is the male/female ratio?
8. What kind of religious life exists on campus?
9. Can the school meet my special needs (dietary/religious/medical/academic)?
10. Do students primarily live on campus, off-campus, or do most students commute from home?
11. What is social life on campus like? How important are fraternities and sororities? Varsity sports?

Financial Factors

1. How much will it cost to attend this school (including tuition, fees, room and board, books, travel to and from campus, and spending money)? Use the institution's *net price calculator* to get an early estimate.
2. Will I qualify for financial aid? Is the amount of financial aid offered negotiable? Does the college offer academic merit scholarships (as opposed to colleges that offer scholarships solely based on the family's "Financial Need")?
3. Will I go on to graduate school? Will this affect how much I can spend on my undergraduate education?

Facilities

1. How are the college's libraries and computer facilities?
2. Are computers required for incoming freshmen?
3. Are there adequate sports and recreational facilities (e.g., a swimming pool, athletic fields for non-varsity players, music practice rooms)?
4. Is a wide variety of intercollegiate and intramural sports programs available? What facilities and programs are available for women?

Living Conditions/Safety

1. Is campus housing readily available? Is on-campus housing guaranteed for all four years?
2. Are the dorms coed? Are the bathrooms? Are single sex dorms available? Gender-Neutral housing or restrooms?
3. Are alternative housing arrangements available?
4. How safe is the campus? How does the college ensure safety on campus?
5. Are there support systems for underrepresented students, or LGTBQ students, and other affinity groups?

WHERE TO GET INFORMATION ABOUT COLLEGES

There are many ways to learn about the hundreds of excellent colleges in the U.S. and abroad. Take advantage of the resources available at Stuyvesant, and research and try to visit those college campuses in which you are most interested.

- College websites, especially their admissions pages

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- Various college guides (Fiske, etc.)
- The College Office bulletin boards inside and outside Room 225
- Your college counselors are available in the College Office Room 225
- Junior College Information Night in February, 2022
- Stuyvesant’s special events like the Hidden Ivies Panel, CUNY Night, and our annual college fair (TBD)
- Attend open houses held by various colleges
- College Fairs held throughout the year virtually or in NYC; click [here](#) for more information about the NACAC fair
- The *Occupational Outlook Handbook*, an excellent source of information about careers and the educational preparation needed for these careers, can be found online at <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>.
- College campus visits
- College admissions representatives will visit Stuyvesant during the school day in the fall of the senior year to conduct information sessions and to answer your questions

THE COLLEGE INTERVIEW

As part of the application process, some colleges offer you the opportunity to have an interview with either an admissions officer or one of its New York City area alumni. The College Office encourages you to seek out interviews in order to enhance your candidacy. Once you are given the date, time, and place of the interview, the interviewer’s name and title, and the interviewer’s telephone number, make sure you know how to get to the location of the interview and how long the trip will take. Virtual interviews are also a very common option.

First impressions are important, so remember to dress appropriately for your interview. There is no need to wear a suit and tie; just look like the best version of your regular self. Some recommend dressing “business casual”. You should arrive to the interview ten to fifteen minutes early. Before each college interview, spend some time thinking about why you are interested in that specific college. Research special programs. Review the college’s website and any other materials the college has sent you. Know what the college’s mission or philosophy is. During your interview, show an interest in the college and its academic and extra-curricular programs.

Although there is no way to know exactly what you will be asked in an interview, you should be prepared to discuss such topics as:

- Why do I want to go to this particular college?
- What could I contribute to the college community?
- What are my goals, both personal and academic?
- What am I interested in (academics as well as interests outside of the classroom)?
- What do I expect to gain from my college experience?
- What are/might be my career plans?
- What did I do last summer and what did it mean to me?
- What are my favorite books?
- What was the last book I read for pleasure?

When you meet the interviewer, shake hands. Try to maintain eye contact and not to answer questions with one word or yes/no answers. Do not be afraid to say that you are undecided about your major or future plans. Show the interviewer that you are a mature, confident, intelligent, and independent young adult. Finally, be polite. Thank the interviewer as you leave. You should send a Thank You note or email to the interviewer and express your appreciation (make sure you know his/her full name and title). Please see the sample “Thank You” letter that follows; it provides a general sense of

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what you might include in a thank you note. We know from past experience that your conduct in the interview can have a positive or negative effect on your candidacy.

Sample “Thank You” Letter/Email After a College Interview

Your Street Address
Your City, State, Zip Code
Your Telephone Number

Date

Name of person who interviewed you
Interviewer’s professional job title
Organization or Company or College for which interviewer works
Town or City, State, Zip Code

Dear (Name of person who interviewed you):

I am very appreciative of the opportunity I had to be interviewed by you on (date of interview). I found our conversation worthwhile in many ways. (Cite some specific examples.)

I found our discussion about (mention a specific point discussed during the interview which will exhibit to the interviewer that you were engaged and attentive during the interview) and the advice you gave me (be specific here too, if possible) very valuable.

Thank you for your time spent on my behalf.

Sincerely,

Your Signature

Your name, typed

Some additional points to consider:

- Do not be afraid to mention in your thank you note something you forgot to mention during the interview.
- The thank-you note should be brief. Remember that you already wrote, or will write, a great deal about yourself in your application.
- Send the thank you note or email shortly following the interview (within a few days).

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COLLEGE EXPENSES/FINANCIAL AID

Financial aid helps meet the costs of your college education. Your total costs can include not only tuition, but room and board, books, travel expenses, etc. How much financial aid you are offered may be a large factor in determining which college you attend. This section will give you an overview of what Financial aid means and how you apply for it, but please remember, this is only a brief outline.

Financial aid applications are lengthy and detailed and could take hours to complete. It is important that your family's tax forms and monetary records are available and up to date. There are crucial financial aid deadlines set by the colleges. It is imperative to carefully read the financial aid requirements of all the colleges to which you are applying. Financial aid forms have to be filled out every year you attend college.

Financial aid offered by colleges can be based on a family's "Need" or "Merit". Financial Need is defined as the difference between what it costs to attend a particular college (tuition, room, board, etc.) and what you and your family are expected to pay towards your college education. Your yearly Expected Family Contribution (EFC) is determined by completing the [FAFSA](#), in many cases the [CSS Profile](#), and in some cases the specific college's own financial aid form(s). In determining a family's Expected Family Contribution (EFC), colleges consider a number of factors including: income, the number of people in the family, and other assets.

Merit aid is aid awarded because applicants possess desirable characteristics for a given institution. Academic and athletic scholarships are two common types of institutional merit awards.

When you begin your college search, you should not rule out any school because of cost. Many colleges offer individual students a tremendous amount of financial aid. If you could use money for college, do not be afraid to apply for aid, even if you think you won't qualify for aid. Almost 90% of students attending private colleges received some form of need or merit based aid. "Tuition discounting" is common practice among private colleges; last year, the average discount rate was over [53%](#). However, your final list of college choices should include academic and financial "safety" schools. You can estimate the cost of attending a particular school by using the Net Price Calculator. The Net Price Calculator is a tool that you can use to estimate your "net price" to attend a particular college or university. Net price is the difference between the "sticker" price (full cost) to attend a specific college, minus any grants and scholarships for which you may be eligible. For more information, visit this link: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/paying-your-share/focus-on-net-price-not-sticker-price>

Some types of financial aid are given to the student in the form of grants or scholarships, the money that you do not need to be repaid. Other financial aid comes in the form of loans that need to be repaid after graduation and/or work study that the student needs to earn through a campus job.

Once the Financial Aid Offices at each college to which you have been accepted have reviewed your family's financial information, each will notify you about your financial aid award. The award will indicate the types of financial aid you will be receiving and the amounts of each type of aid. The award amount varies from college to college. If for any reason you feel that your aid award is insufficient, or if your family's income has recently decreased for some reason, please contact the colleges' financial aid offices.

Common Grants, Scholarships and Loans

Grants and Scholarships

<u>Sources of Aid</u>	<u>Monetary Value</u>	<u>How to Apply</u>
College Scholarships	Varies, some are need-based, others merit-based	Complete the FAFSA, CSS Profile and/or individual colleges' own financial aid application
Federal Pell Grant	Varies, based on financial need	Complete the FAFSA
Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG)	Varies, based on financial need	Complete the FAFSA

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Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) & Excelsior Scholarship	Varies, based on financial need Can only be used at colleges in New York State	Complete the FAFSA and TAP application, or Dream Act application
National Merit & National Achievement Scholarships	Varies	Your junior year PSAT/NMSQT result
Educational Opportunity Program (EOP) & Higher Education Opportunity Program	Varies, eligibility is based on BOTH academic and economic criteria	Educationally and economically disadvantaged students attending a SUNY or private college in New York State
New York State Excelsior Scholarship	Up to full tuition but NOT room/board/other expenses	Apply via hesc.ny.gov . Many restrictions apply
ROTC Scholarships (Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps)	Pays for tuition, books, fees, and other expenses	Please visit www.rotc.com
Various private scholarships (Posse, New York Times, etc.)	Varies, based on various different factors	Apply directly to scholarship sources Check Naviance and emails from College Office

Loans

Loan Type	Description	How to Apply
Federal Direct Loan	Students borrow money to help pay for college Please visit www.studentaid.ed.gov for details	Complete the FAFSA, college financial aid offices help you with the loan process
Parent Loans for Undergraduate Students (PLUS)	Parents borrow money to help pay for college Please visit www.studentaid.ed.gov for details	Complete the FAFSA, college financial aid offices help you with the loan process
Private Student Loans or Supplemental Loans or Alternative Loans	Some families choose to borrow to cover much of their unmet financial need	Be a smart consumer, look for loans with the lowest interest rates and best repayment options. Be careful

Read more about the different [federal](#) and [state](#) aid programs

COLLEGE PREPARATION CHECKLIST

I. Check list of required/optional items for college application before I submit my application:

1. ____ I have reviewed the college website carefully.
2. ____ I have visited the campus.
3. ____ I have engaged with admissions representatives (virtual or in-person)
4. ____ I have checked that the college offers the programs I am interested in.
5. ____ I have taken all required standardized tests (SAT or ACT)
6. ____ I am ready to send my standardized test scores to all of the colleges where they are required.
7. ____ I have filled out and updated the SSR Survey online
8. ____ If applying Early Action or Early Decision, I have entered my choice(s) on Naviance
9. ____ I have included this college on my Common App list.
10. ____ I have included this college on my Naviance “colleges I’m applying to list.”
11. ____ **I have met with my college counselor to discuss potential colleges and my plans!**
12. ____ I know the deadlines for submitting all of my college applications.
13. ____ I have completed my essay(s).
14. ____ I have completed my colleges’ supplemental applications.
15. ____ I have checked my high school transcript carefully and submitted necessary corrections.
16. ____ My family and I are prepared to complete all required financial aid forms (CSS profile, FAFSA...)

II. Things to Do after Receiving Acceptances:

1. ____ My acceptance deposit has been sent to the college I will be attending.
2. ____ I have informed colleges that have accepted me that I am not going to attend.
3. ____ I have completed my housing request form.
4. ____ I have found off-campus housing, if necessary.
5. ____ I have completed any requested pre-registration materials and scheduled orientation.
6. ____ I have made sure my TAP application reflects the correct college, if applicable and attending college in New York State.

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Resources

Many of the following books are available in the school library, public libraries and local bookstores...& Amazon.com

- *Architecture Schools in North America.* Peterson's Guides.
- *Barron's Profiles of American Colleges.* Barron's Educational Series.
- *The Best 387 Colleges.* The Princeton Review.
- *Colleges That Change Lives: 40 Schools That Will Change the Way You Think About Colleges.* Loren Pope.
- *The Princeton Review: Guide to College Majors.*
- *College Board: College Handbook.* The College Board.
- *College Cost Book.* The College Board.
- *College Handbook, Index of Majors.* The College Board.
- *The Fiske Guide to Colleges.* Edward B. Fiske.
- *The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College.* Viking Penguin.
- *The Hidden Ivies: Thirty Colleges of Excellence.* Harper Collins.
- *How to Get an Ivy League Education at a State University.* Avon Books.
- *Looking Beyond the Ivy League: Finding the College That's Right for You.* Loren Pope
- *The K & W Guide to Colleges for Students with Learning Disabilities.* The Princeton Review
- *Peterson's Guide to Four Year Colleges.* Peterson's Guides, Inc.
- *The Price You Pay for College.* Ron Leiber
- *Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be.* Frank Bruni
- *Who Gets In and Why.* Jeffrey Selingo

Websites

College Information, Financial Aid Information, and Scholarship Search Tools

- [Stuy's College Office](#)
- <https://lesshighschoolstress.com/>
- Naviance Student- <https://student.naviance.com/stuyvesant>
- College Results Online- www.collegeresults.org
- Federal Aid - www.fafsa.gov
- New York State Aid – <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/>
- Scholarships– www.fastweb.com
- EFC Calculator (estimator) for CSS Profile (when prompted to “Pick a Formula”, choose “Institutional Methodology”) - [CollegeBoard EFC Calculator](#)
- <http://studentaid.ed.gov>
- www.finaid.org
- The College Board – www.collegeboard.org
- Common Application - www.commonapp.org
- National Survey of Student Engagement- <https://nsse.indiana.edu/support-resources/students-parents/pocket-guide/english.html>
- www.nacacnet.org
- Scholarships for NYC Students: <http://www.newvisions.org/pages/scholarship-opportunities-list>
- The Project on Student Debt-<http://ticas.org/posd/home>