



Young Women's Preparatory Academy College Bound Newsletter

January 2010

Volume 1

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"I have an open door policy. That means that if the door is open – "come on in" you are welcome anytime."

The Miami National College Fair

150+ colleges and universities from around the country!

Sunday, February 21, 2010

**Noon-4 p.m. • Doubletree Miami Mart/Airport Hotel
& Exhibition Center**

777 N.W. 72 Ave.

Just off S.R. 836 and Milam Dairy Road

FREE Admission and FREE Information Sessions

Parking fee: \$5.00

To ease traffic congestion, it is recommended that 11th- and 12th-graders arrive at noon and 8th-, 9th- and 10th-graders arrive at 2 p.m.

*For more information, call
305-995-1739*

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. or visit www.nacacnet.org

If you have a disability that requires accommodation, you may call the number listed above or call the

Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) at 305-995-2400.

****PRE-REGISTRATION****

Requesting information from multiple colleges/universities at the College Fair just got easier. By pre-registering, students can print a bar-coded confirmation to be used at the fair as an electronic ID. No more filling out information cards!

Pre-register at: www.gotomyncf.com

[Online registration is available now!!!](http://www.gotomyncf.com)

Sponsored by
Miami-Dade County Public Schools
National Association for College Admission Counseling





College Searches

FACTS.org

College Board:
ACT:

Princeton Review:

EduPrep:

Search for colleges,
and scholarships:

College and scholarship
searches

Knowledge for College:

Art and Design Colleges:

College Accreditation:

Colleges that Change Lives:

Florida Health Careers:

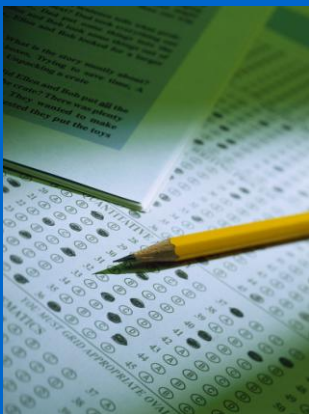
Colleges in the UK:

Virtual College Tours:

College Confidential
College View

Occupational Outlook
Handbook

The common Application:



Time To Register For Florida Financial Aid.

Seniors, if you wish to be considered for Florida Bright Futures and other Grants, Scholarships and work study programs time is running out for the first evaluation. If you wish to be considered in the first evaluation, you must register no later than..... - so please register today!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Click Here > [Initial Student Florida Financial Aid Application](#)

Financing a College Education in a Recession

From: The College Board

There are a variety of financing options available for families who are concerned about their ability to meet their family share of costs. These alternative sources of aid, most often in the form of loans, can help families cover financial aid gaps, or unmet need in a financial aid package.

To learn more, please go to: <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/pay/ways-to-pay/414.html?CampaignID=4823>

Changes in Financial Aid

By Claudine Vainrub, MBA and Principal of EduPlan

Financial aid has recently become a hotter topic in the mind of many more Americans, as we survive a recession. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel. We count with enhanced Government support, especially led by President Obama, who strongly advocates towards positive change in the field. Supporting Americans to achieve higher education has been one of the core initiatives and focus points of this administration. True to its values, U.S. leadership has introduced reform that makes the Financial Aid process a promising one towards the future.

For more information on this topic, go to: <http://eduplan.us/changes-in-financial-aid/>

Avoid These 7 Costly FAFSA Mistakes!

By: Andrew Lockwood, J.D. and Peter "College Pete" Ratzan, College Planning Specialists of Florida.

Did you know that you need a post-graduate degree to complete your financial aid forms? That's why Secretary of Education, Arne Duncan, stated "You basically need a Ph.D to figure that thing out!" Secretary Duncan was referring to the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or "FAFSA." And he's a Harvard guy!

Not only is the FAFSA complicated, but also the rules and regulations behind it are impossibly hard to understand. And they can be unfair. Sometimes, people whom you'd think should never receive a red penny of aid walk away with tens of thousands of dollars of scholarships.

It's like a game - know the rules, you win. Stay in the dark – you lose.

To learn more, please go to: www.FinancialAidBuzz.com/Krop

Which FAFSA form do I file?

TESTING

Here are some websites that provide SAT and ACT preparation

Number2.com

Max the Test

Princeton Review

State University Miniums:

SAT: Math: 440 / Verbal: 440 / writing: 440

ACT: 17 English / 18 Reading 19 Math



NCAA INFORMATION

NCAA online:

NCAA Clearinghouse initial eligibility

Recruiting search website:

CampusChamps.com -

Tennis Recruiting:

If you have any favorite websites that you would like to share with us, please e-mail the links to me at:

igottlieb@dadeschools.net

<u>Attending College</u>	<u>Use FAFSA Form</u>	<u>Use IRS Income Tax From</u>
Beginning Summer 2010	2009- 2010 FAFSA	2008
Then Fall 2010	2010 - 2011 FAFSA	2009
Beginning Fall 2008	2010 - 2011 FAFSA	2009

Each college sets its own deadline regarding financial aid, but it is in your best interest to file the **FAFSA** (and any other required forms) as early as possible. Colleges have a finite amount of money budgeted for financial aid. **Students who file later risk receiving less aid as colleges approach their budget limits.**

The early bird gets the money--don't delay filing. The ideal way to complete the **FAFSA** is with numbers taken from your completed federal income tax return. Unfortunately, few taxpayers complete their income tax by February (which is when some colleges have their priority financial aid deadlines). If you have the discipline and the information to complete your tax return early (even if you don't actually send the return to the IRS until April 15), you can cut out a few steps in the process.

FAFSA Fun: Common FAQs about Families' Favorite Form!

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Here are some answers to some of the more commonly asked questions

- "When do I need to file the FAFSA?"** Students can begin filing the FAFSA as of January 1 for the upcoming academic year. It is strongly suggested that students file as soon as possible after this date. **For Florida students likely to qualify for need-based aid, no later than May 15 (the State's filing deadline).** The earlier students file, the sooner colleges receive the financial information necessary to process financial aid awards. The earlier the financial aid award is put together, the greater the amount of available money still on the table. So...plan to file as soon as all necessary numbers and paperwork are in hand. **Note:** You do not have to have your 2009 tax returns already filed in order to file the FAFSA as accurate estimates are accepted on the form. (If you don't file the FAFSA based on a tax return, you will need to go back online once your tax return is done to enter the actual financial information. . . or you won't ever get a need-based financial aid award.) Also remember that you must file the FAFSA (or renewal FAFSA) every year a student will be in college. The Expected Family Contribution that is generated each year is a point-in-time estimate and must be updated annually.
- "How do I get a PIN number in order to file the FAFSA online?"** Both students and their parents (in the case dependent students) need PIN numbers in order to file the FAFSA online. In order to obtain a PIN number, log onto <http://www.pin.ed.gov/> and follow the instructions provided. A parent needs only one PIN number if filing FAFSAs for multiple children and the same student and parent PIN numbers can be used every year. To file the FAFSA online go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/> .
- "For financial aid purposes, who is considered a parent?"** Generally speaking, a biological parent's information should be used when completing the FAFSA. A number of students have biological parents in two different households. The federal formula requires that it be based on the biological parent with whom the student has lived for the greatest number of days during the past twelve months (calendar year 2009 for high school seniors or current college students now filing the FAFSA for next academic year, 2010-2011). Note: If the parent in the household reported is remarried, stepparent information (including income) must also be reported.
- "But what if I lived an equal number of days with each parent?"** In this case, the feds require the student to use the household figures for the parent that provided the largest amount of financial support during the past twelve months or the most



### **Common Application Errors**

**"I'll start the application next week."** Don't run out of time to complete the application. Give yourself at least two weeks to find mistakes.

**"I already ran a spell-check on my computer."** Words can be spelled correctly but used incorrectly. Ask a counselor, teacher or family member to proof read the application to catch any errors or poor phrasing.

**"One copy is enough."** Print out any online forms and keep copies of all paperwork.

**"I can send my application as soon as I'm finished."** Before you seal the envelope or click "Send" on your computer, double- and triple-check that you have included all necessary materials.

**Follow-up in two weeks to verify that all mailed materials have been**

recent period in which the student lived with a biological parent (if not living with either parent now).

**5. "And what if they each provide an equal amount of financial support?"** Then you choose the parental household whose information you will provide. (We have noticed that for many client families with split family situations, the parents ask us to run College Costs Estimator reports/EFC estimations on both households so they can understand the impact of reporting each household under the demanding federal formula for financial aid.)

**6. "What if I live with a legal guardian or someone else other than a parent? How is that treated for FAFSA purposes?"** The feds require that the FAFSA be based on a biological parent, except in very unusual student and family circumstances. **Beginning with the 2009-2010 FAFSA, a student who at any time since he/she turned age 13 was a dependent or ward of the court or has a court appointed legal guardian other than a parent, even if you he or she is longer a dependent or ward of the court is an Independent Student for purposes of filing the FAFSA. If at any time on or after July 1, 2008 the high school or school district liaison determined the student was an unaccompanied youth who was homeless, or the director of an emergency shelter or transitional housing program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development determined that the student was an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or the director of a runaway or homeless youth basic center or transitional living program determined that the student was an unaccompanied youth who was homeless or self- supporting and at risk of being homeless would also qualify as an Independent Student. Independent students will only report their income and asset information, they will not report any financial information in the parent section (Step 4) of the FAFSA. Students who do not live with/or have contact with biological parents and do **not** have a legal guardian must seek a dependency override from a financial aid officer at the institution they plan to attend. The dependency override will allow the student to file the FAFSA as an Independent Student and as such will not need parent information on the FAFSA. Note: If a senior seeking a professional judgment has not yet begun discussions about Independent Student status with the financial aid director at the college of choice, the student should do so **immediately.****

**7. Who is counted in the household when completing the FAFSA?** Included in the parents' household is the student completing the FAFSA, the parents living in the household with the student, the parents' other children if (a) your parents will provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011 or (b) the child would be a dependent student if they were to file a FAFSA for their own financial aid. Other people who now live with your parents, your parents provide more than half of their support and your parents will continue to provide more than half of their support between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011 may also be counted as the number in the household. When reporting the number of people in the household who are in college do not include the parents **but** do include other members who are in the household and also in college.

### **Resources:**

If you have questions about the FAFSA process/application in general, contact the federal hotline at 1-800-4FEDAID or access the federal website at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.

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## **Mid-Year College Grade Reports**

This is the time when a number of colleges request a mid-year report of your grades. Some colleges provide their own report form that is to be filled out by your guidance counselor. Others may merely request an updated transcript. My suggestion to you

received.

**“I assume this is right.”** If you’re confused by a question or any part of the application, ask someone. A quick call to the admissions office can save you from making an embarrassing error



**You must go to the Registrar’s Office to request copies of your Transcripts to be sent to those Colleges you applied to.**



**National Association for College Admission Counseling**  
*Guiding the way to higher education*

**Miami National College Fair  
February 21, 2010  
12:00 – 4:00 PM  
Sheraton Miami Mart Hotel  
Miami, FL**

**Click here for more information: Miami**

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is that you check with the admissions department of the college you have applied to and inquire as to the need for this report.

In addition, it is wise for those students who have yet to be accepted and know that they are on the borderline academically to also send an updated grade report. Your case for acceptance may be boosted if you send them a copy of your first semester grades along with an additional letter of recommendation. This action may truly help to push you over the edge.

Grades should be updated by the second week of February. There are two ways available to request grade reports:

1. Request a transcript to be sent through the Registrars office. Transcript request forms are found in the registrar’s office. **Please write on the form that this is for a mid-year transcript.** Transcripts will be sent out by the registrar as soon as updating has been completed. **Also note that it is better to send a paper transcript because it will show all your mid-year grades.**

If you have any questions, please feel free to come see Mrs. Gottlieb

## **Colleges: Some you may and some you may not know**

### **Smith College**

Smith College educates women of promise for lives of distinction. One of the largest women’s liberal arts colleges in the United States, Smith enrolls 2,800 students from nearly every state and 70 other countries and is renowned for its vibrant intellectual and cultural community. The college’s open curriculum allows students to choose from 1,000 courses in more than 50 areas of study. Students also may take classes through Five Colleges, Inc., a consortium that includes Smith and nearby Amherst, Hampshire and Mount Holyoke colleges and the University of Massachusetts. Smith is noted for its outstanding resources, including the Museum of Art, Botanic Garden and one of the largest undergraduate libraries in the country. [www.smith.edu](http://www.smith.edu)

### **The Coast Guard Academy**

The Coast Guard Academy has been developing leaders of character since 1876 through academic programs designed to challenge and inspire; physical activity structured to prepare for the demands of an officer at sea; and an atmosphere built around teamwork, all in an effort to foster the best qualities of each student. This prestigious college offers not only a tuition-free education at a on a picturesque waterfront campus but a guaranteed job upon graduation. Visit our site to learn more: [www.uscga.edu](http://www.uscga.edu) .

### **Sarah Lawrence**

Sarah Lawrence is a coeducational liberal arts college, offering undergraduate as well as graduate degrees. Located just fifteen minutes north of New York City on a beautiful, wooded campus, the College is nationally renowned for its rigorous academic and creative standards. These are fostered by small seminar classes and individual student-faculty tutorials made possible by a very low student-to-faculty ratio of 9-to-1. It is a lively community of students, scholars, and artists offering outstanding programs in the humanities, the natural sciences and mathematics, history and the social sciences, and the creative and performing arts. Sarah Lawrence graduates include journalist and television personality Barbara Walters, White House Chief of Staff, Rahm Emanuel, Author Alice Walker, television producer J.J. Abrams and designer Vera Wang. [www.saralawrence.edu](http://www.saralawrence.edu)

### **Albion College**

Have you thought about Albion? You know the nationally known liberal arts college in the middle of Southern Michigan, half way between Ann Arbor and Kalamazoo? 1700 students, small classes, dynamic faculty, pretty campus, great undergraduate

## Steps to College

Steps to College is NACAC's online newsletter for and about students in the school-to-college transition.

### Resources and Tips as You Begin Your College Search

- Surviving Your College Search: The Adventure Begins
- An Internet Road Map for the College-Bound Student
- Career Planning and College Choice
- College Rankings: Helpful or Hurtful?
- Faring Well at College Fairs
- College Visits: A Planning Checklist

### Preparing for College While You're in High School

- Choosing High School Courses for College Success
- Choosing High School Activities Wisely
- MySpace in College Admission

### Choosing the Best-Fit College

- Is a Large or Small College Right for You?
- Career and Technical Colleges: Careers in Focus
- Tips for Visual and Performing Arts Students
- Community College: A Viable Option
- Exercising Your Options: Tips for Student-Athletes

### The College Admission Process

- The Parts of an

research, exceptional med and law school placements, strong business program, impressive modern language majors (9 Fulbright scholars in the last 6 years), the premier equestrian program in the Midwest, and more. [www.albion.edu](http://www.albion.edu)

### Philadelphia University

Philadelphia University is located 15 minutes outside of Center City Philadelphia, a rich and vibrant city in Pennsylvania. Founded in 1884, it is a private university with 3,400 full- and part-time students from 40 states and 25 countries. The University offers more than 50 undergraduate and graduate degree programs leading to the Bachelor of Science, Bachelor of Architecture, Bachelor of Landscape Architecture, master's degrees and a doctoral degree in Textile Engineering and Science. Academic programs encompass architecture, design, business, engineering, liberal arts, textiles, fashion, science and health. For more information, please visit [www.PhilaU.edu](http://www.PhilaU.edu)

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## Timeline For Juniors – Mrs. Gottlieb's Wish List?!?

1. **BEGIN YOUR COLLEGE SEARCH EARLY** (like...right now!!!) Beyond the obvious, get to know what GPA and SAT/ACT score will give you your best chance of being accepted. Make a table of application requirements (essays, recommendation letters, community service, SAT II requirements and so on)
2. **TEST EARLY: complete all your SAT/ACT testing by the end of your junior year.** Plan out a strategy as to which tests and what dates to register for. Allow for time to either take a test preparation class or work with a tutor if you find yourself scoring below what you need to get into your dream college.
3. **APPLY EARLY:** Students applying in September, October and November have a better chance than those applying in late December, January, February and March (slim chance). Achieving your target GPA and Test scores by the end of your junior year will also allow you to take advantage of Early Decision and Early Action deadlines in October and November.
4. **BEING ACCEPTED EARLY:** By applying early, you may be accepted early. Just think how nice it would be to go you your family parties and dinners in December and tell everyone that you have already been accepted to college!!!
5. **APPLY FOR FINANCIAL AID EARLY:** By being accepted early, you can apply for financial aid (FAFSA) early – beginning January 1 of your senior year. "The early bird gets the worm" is so true when it comes to financial aid. **MONEY RUNS OUT!!!!**
6. **EVALUATE YOUR AWARD LETTERS:** If you apply for financial aid early, you will receive your financial aid award letter early. You will now be able to sit down with your parents and go over with them the financial "bottom line" of your final college selection.
7. **YOUR FINAL CHOICE...AND THE WINNER IT!!!:** This whole process boils down to the day you select "the winner". Most colleges would like an answer from you by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Remember not only should you notify the college that you'll be attending "that you're cumin" but it is also courteous to notify those colleges that you are declining. A nice courteous and thoughtful letter on your part may very well open up a slot for another well deserving student.

And so begins another wonderful and exciting journey in your life.....

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**I would like all juniors to finish their SAT/ACT testing by the end of their junior year...just ask a senior why?**

- Admission Folder
- Admission Tech 101: What Students Need to Know
- Early Decision/Early Action: Does the Early Bird Get the Worm?
- Getting Great Recommendations
- Top Ten Tips for Writing the College Essay
- Help with the Writing Process
- The Truth About College Interviews
- The Waiting Game: What if I'm Wait-Listed?
- Making the Final Decision

### Financial Aid

- Focus on Financial Aid: An Introduction
- Focus on Financial Aid: How to Apply
- Focus on Financial Aid: Terminology and Words to Know
- Focus on Financial Aid: Resources
- The Scoop on Scholarships
- Financial Aid Basics
- Financial Aid Myths and Misconceptions
- Financial Aid Words to Know

### For Parents

- Off to College? Enter Here: The Changing Parent/Child Relationship
- For Parents: Preparing Your Child for the Social Aspects of College
- Tips for Parents: Countdown to College
- Tips for Parents: Helping Your Child Through College Admission
- Books for Parents of College-Bound Students
- A Parent's Guide to Financial Aid
- Everyone in My Child's Space

# 2010 SAT and ACT Test Dates

## REGISTRATION DATES

| National Test Dates | Test                  | REGULAR Postmark Deadline | LATE Postmark Deadline |
|---------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>2010</b>         |                       |                           |                        |
| <b>March 13</b>     | <b>SAT I</b>          | <b>February 4</b>         | <b>February 18</b>     |
| <b>April 10</b>     | <b>ACT</b>            | <b>March 5</b>            | <b>March 19</b>        |
| <b>May 1</b>        | <b>SAT I &amp; II</b> | <b>March 25</b>           | <b>April 8</b>         |
| <b>June 5</b>       | <b>SAT I &amp; II</b> | <b>April 29</b>           | <b>May 13</b>          |
| <b>June 12</b>      | <b>ACT</b>            | <b>May 7</b>              | <b>May 21</b>          |

Register online at:  
 SAT: [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)  
 ACT: [www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

Paper registration forms are available upon request.

## SAT / ACT Test Fee Waivers

Juniors,

Effective December 1 juniors are now able to request SAT and ACT test Fee Waivers..

If you are on free or reduced lunch, you qualify for the following.

Remember that you must reapply each year to remain eligible.

2 ACT test waiver  
 2 SAT test fee waivers  
 4 College Board - College Application Fee Waivers  
 (Waivers used during your junior year count)

To receive a waiver, please come by my office, room 111A anytime!!

## Test Preparation and Reference Center

I think this is something that can be very helpful to our students and their families. This database has test prep (e-books and practice tests for FCAT, ACT, SAT, PSAT, and AP . Check out the TERC at

<http://infotrac.galegroup.com/itweb/miamidade?&db=TERC>

If prompted for a username and password, use **miamidade** for both.

## Summer Programs and Camps Search

Including summer internships and study abroad programs

Have the summer of a lifetime and uncover a mind-boggling array of things to do! Windsurf on a cool and clear New England lake at a summer day camp. Improve your ball-handling skills at a basketball camp. Explore colleges or get a jump on next year's classes at a college prep camp. Help out on an archeological dig at a travel

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## College Yells

Auburn University:

War Eagle!

Baylor University:

Sic'Em, Bears!

Cornell University:

Go Big Red!

Louisiana State University:

Geaux Tigers!

Marshall University:

We Are Marshall!

Palm Beach Atlantic Univ.

You wish you were a fish!

University of Georgia:

Go Dawgs!

University of Miami:

Woosh! (Supposed to be the sound of a hurricane.) Or Go Canes!

University of Michigan:

Go Blue!

University of Missouri:

M-I-Z...Z-O-U!

University of Notre Dame:

Go Irish!

University of Oklahoma:

Boomer Sooner!

University of South Florida:

Go Bulls!

Yale University:

Boola, Boola!

camp. And meet your new lifelong friends!

To find out more about current programs, please go to [Petersons](http://www.petersons.com) search engine at:  
<http://www.petersons.com/summerop/code/sssector.asp?sponsor=1>

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## FLORIDA HEALTH CAREERS

The Florida Health Careers is designed to help people who are exploring career possibilities in the health care field and to provide a reference tool for librarians, career planning professionals, school guidance counselors and occupational specialists for career guidance in the state of Florida. Visit their website at: <http://www.flahec.org/hlthcareers/> for more information

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# There is no senioritis at YWPA!!!!

