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## September 2023

Seniors- Finalize college list: work on applications & essays: request recommendation letters from teachers and counselors: review your transcript for accuracy  
Check your schools website for fall college rep visits to your area

**Register for October SAT**  
<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org>

or

**ACT**

<https://www.act.org>

**Visit virtual or in-person  
NACAC college fairs**

<https://www.nacacattend.org/fairs/>

## October 2023

### 10th & 11th Graders

Sign-up for the new digital PSAT at your high school

### Seniors

Continue to meet with college reps: complete Early Decision/Early Action Applications

Complete the CSS Profile, if required by colleges

**Newly revised FAFSA projected to launch December 2023**

## Decoding College Application Plans

You've finalized your college list but which application plan should you use? The options can often be confusing to both students and parents. Here's a quick rundown of the differences and a look at the pros and cons of each plan.

**Regular Decision (RD).** Under regular decision, you'll need to apply by a certain deadline set by the individual college. The college will review your application and let you know whether you've been admitted by a specified date (often, but not always, April 1.) If you're admitted under RD you won't have to accept your offer of admission or send in a deposit until May 1. Applying RD is straightforward and simple. Because deadlines are often later under RD than for certain other plans, you'll have more time to submit your application materials to the school. You'll also have more time to retake the SAT or ACT in the Fall of senior year, which can be a plus for students who aren't happy with their scores.

**Rolling Admission.** Some colleges use a rolling admission plan. At these colleges, you may apply at any time after a college begins accepting applications until a final closing date set by the college. In some cases, the final deadline can be as late as a few weeks before the start of the term. Rolling admission schools review applications as they come in, and let applicants know their admission decision as soon as it is made. So, one benefit of applying to a rolling admission school is that you won't have to wait for months to know whether you've been accepted. If you're admitted, you'll have until May 1 to accept the offer. One potential downside is that at some rolling admission colleges, competition for admission can get tighter the later you apply.

**Priority Application Deadline.** When looking through college application instructions, you may notice that some schools mention a priority application deadline that is sooner than the regular decision deadline. Applying by the priority deadline will put your application at the front of the line for review and, depending on the school, you may also receive your decision earlier than students who apply by the regular deadline. At some schools, you must apply by the priority application deadline to be considered for merit scholarships.

**Early Action (EA).** According to data from the National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC), about a third of colleges offer Early Action application plans. If you choose to apply under Early Action, you'll complete your application by an earlier deadline than regular decision candidates. Colleges review all EA applications first and let students know their admission decision two to three months before regular decision applicants receive theirs. If you're admitted, you'll have until May 1 to decide whether to attend. Applying EA can increase your chances of admission at some – but not all – colleges.

The NACAC study found that among colleges responding, the average acceptance rate for students who applied EA was 71% compared to 65% for regular decision applicants. However, keep in mind that this can vary by college, and applying EA alone is unlikely to improve your chances if you are not already a good candidate for the school. With the exception of Restricted Early Action programs (see below), students applying EA to one school may also apply EA to other schools.

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### Career Paths for Animal Science Majors

- Veterinarian
- Animal Scientist
- Animal Caretaker
- Research/Lab Technician
- Veterinary Assistant
- Habitat Specialist
- Livestock Manager
- Kennel Keeper
- Livestock Inspector
- Wildlife Biologist
- Zoologist
- Animal Nutritionist
- Animal Researcher
- Conservation Officer
- Zookeeper

More information can be found at [www.asas.org](http://www.asas.org), the website for the American Society of Animal Science.



### Focus on Majors: Animal Science

Animal science majors study the biology, physiology, growth, breeding, nutrition, behavior, and management of animals. They can hold many job titles, in many different fields.

Although working in veterinary medicine requires an advanced degree, this is a popular career path for animal science majors. Veterinarians work in clinics and farms to diagnose and treat animal injuries and illnesses. They also work for companies that make animal foods and pharmaceuticals, to help design products and research how animals respond to certain foods and medicines.

Animal science majors work at all levels of government, from federal to state to local. Federal and State departments of Agriculture, Health, Environmental Protection, and Food and Drug Safety often employ these professionals. They may also work in laboratories to research animal nutrition, health, and disease control, or to inspect livestock operations, and meat and dairy plants.

Positions in education are plentiful for animal science majors at all levels. They work in high schools and colleges, including university extension programs, to teach students about animals and inform the public.

Within the fields of farming and agriculture, animal science majors are employed by farms, ranches, and agricultural businesses as managers and technicians. They may work for livestock producers in quality control, distribution of products, sales, marketing, and customer service. Jobs are available with feedlots, processing plants, breeding companies, food distributors, and even livestock trade publications.

One fast-growing field is animal biotechnology, in which animals are used to support research efforts, serve as models for disease, and provide products to help grow cells, antibodies, and viruses in cultures. Animal science majors work in this industry as research associates, as well as laboratory and veterinary technicians.

As the world loses more species, wildlife conservation is critical. Animal science majors can continue on to careers as zoologists, wildlife biologists, and conservation officers. These jobs generally require an advanced degree in the form of a Masters or a PhD. The main focus of these careers is to protect and support wild animals. Graduates may be employed to count animal populations, run animal breeding programs, coordinate disease control programs, and research threats to habitats. Jobs are available within state and local agencies, corporate laboratories, animal sanctuaries, universities, and zoos.

Depending on the university, animal science majors often specialize in one area. Some examples of these concentrations include pre-veterinary care, the animal industry, and exotic animals. Animal science majors can usually expect to take classes in biology, organic chemistry, and animal physiology. Depending on the specialty, students may also take classes in agriculture, farm management, animal nutrition, or animal behavior. Other classes may include animal care, livestock production, breeding, and animal disease control.

As the human population grows, so does the domestic animal population. This means that job growth is expected in this field in the future. Students who would like to work in wildlife conservation can also expect to see more available jobs. If you have a passion for learning about and caring for animals, an animal science major may be ideal for you.

### Financial Matters: Maximizing Merit Aid



Have you ever wondered what you can do to improve your chances of getting merit aid from a college? An intriguing study from the University of Rochester in New York may hold some clues. Jonathan Burdick, their Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, analyzed the characteristics of students who received merit awards from Rochester. He looked at specific applicant characteristics to see which ones make a difference in the size of a student's merit scholarship offer:

**Rigorous high school courses.** For every AP, IB, or Honors course a student took in high school, his or her merit award at Rochester increased an average of \$400.

**Grades in core academic courses.** Every "A" grade in a core academic course in high school translated into an extra \$62 of merit money.

**Test scores.** For every 10 additional points students scored on the SAT, they received an average of an extra \$115. For every 1 point on the ACT composite, they earned an average of \$425 extra in merit money.

**Interviewing.** Students who scheduled an admission interview with the University of Rochester received, on average, \$250 more in merit money. Students who proactively kept in touch with admissions and financial aid—even *after* they were admitted—were likely to receive an average of \$3,000 *more* in merit money.

**Teacher recommendations.** Every teacher letter of recommendation that the admission committee rated as "excellent" correlated with an average of \$1,800 more in merit awards.

**Being on time.** Students who had

all parts of their application into admissions on time (including mid-year grade requests) earned an average of \$400 more in merit money.

**Applying for financial aid.** Regardless of their *actual* financial need, students who filled out the FAFSA and CSS Profile financial aid applications received, on average, \$2,500 more in merit money.

**Geographic diversity.** Out-of-state students received an average of \$2,000 more in merit money at Rochester than in-state students.

Burdick's data were specific to the University of Rochester, and in sharing his findings, he was careful to point out that some of the differences were not by conscious design. Still, students hoping for merit scholarships at other colleges would be wise to take these findings to heart. Grades, high school courses, test scores, teacher recommendations, and personal contact with colleges don't just matter to your admission chances; they may very well make a difference in how large a merit scholarship you are offered when admitted.

### Decoding College Application Plans (continued from page 1)

**Restricted Early Action/Single Choice Early Action.** Like Early Action, Restricted Early Action requires you to apply by an earlier deadline and provides an early admissions decision. If you're admitted, you also have until May 1 to decide whether to attend. However, as its name implies, Restricted Early Action adds an important restriction to the mix. You may not apply to any other college through Restricted Action or Early Decision; you must restrict your "early" application to a single school. This plan is mostly used by highly competitive schools that admit a very small percentage of applicants. While the acceptance rate for the REA pool at some schools is higher than for those who

apply RD, keep in mind that you will still be competing against other extremely strong applicants. Some students may benefit from more time to improve their test scores or to provide their first semester grades more than any boost obtained from applying REA. This choice is best reserved for a school that you strongly prefer over the others on your list.

**Early Decision.** Early Decision plans are the most restrictive of admission plans. Consequently, at most colleges that offer ED, the acceptance rate is higher. However, it is essential that you apply ED only to a college to which you/your credentials have a realistic chance of acceptance. When you apply Early Decision, you make a commitment to

attend the school if you are admitted. You complete your application by an early deadline and receive your admission decision by the college's stated date. If you're admitted, you'll be required to send in your enrollment deposit right away, and to also withdraw any applications you've submitted to other schools. By applying ED you also agree that once you're admitted, you won't continue to apply to other colleges. The only exception to this is if the college is unable to provide enough financial aid to cover your family's demonstrated need (as the college determines it). Because Early Decision is a serious commitment, it should be reserved for a school that you are absolutely positive is your top choice.

# Doing High School Well

Adults will tell you: “Enjoy high school - these are the best years of your life!” But many teenagers would not agree. What can you do to make sure that your high school years are truly special?

**Get involved.** Join a club or activity that interests you and participate fully. Which one doesn't much matter. Just follow your passions in finding a club that suits you or get together with a friend or two and start your own group. Extracurricular activities are what make high school fun and give you a place to belong.

**Challenge yourself.** It might be tempting to take the easier route with grade-level classes, but try that AP or honors class and move beyond your comfort zone. Don't fear the teacher whom everyone says is really demanding—the best teachers are those who will encourage you to think outside the box and to stretch your mind.

**Ask for help.** There's no glory in doing it all yourself; ask for help when you need it. Meet with your English teacher after school for help with an essay or ask your math teacher to explain a difficult concept. In this way, you'll establish relationships with your teachers outside of the classroom and perhaps find yourself with a true mentor.

**Try not to focus on being with the “popular” kids.** High school students tend to form cliques of like-minded individuals. Make your friends based on shared interests and values. Welcome opportunities to get to know new friends throughout high school.

**Take care of yourself.** That means eating well, getting an adequate amount of sleep and exercise, and finding ways of managing the stress that comes with being a high school student. Learn to manage your time well so you don't get caught with last-minute assignments. Set aside time each day to work on each subject, even getting ahead in reading or other assignments when you can. Make sure you build in time for fun and relaxation. Go for a run, play with your dog, read a novel, chat with a friend—anything to break up long hours of study.

**Do good—volunteer.** Helping others will make you feel good about yourself. Look for volunteer activities that you generally care about, not just those you think will look good on your resume.

**Don't sweat the small stuff.** You'll encounter a lot of petty ideas and petty people during your high school years, but you don't need to get caught up in focusing on things that really will not matter. Spend your time and effort on those things that are important to you.

**Keep your grades in perspective.** Of course, you'll want to do the best you can in each of your classes, but don't let one or two B's on your transcript convince you that you'll never get into college. There are wonderful colleges out there for students who've shown a range of achievement; there's a place for every student who truly wants an education.

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