DAVIS EDUCATION & CAREER CONSULTANTS LLC
NEWSLETTER

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October 2016

10th and 11th grade students—Review test materials & take New PSAT

1st — SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests

22nd — ACT and ACT plus Writing

Attend area college fairs and meetings

Meet with college reps visiting high school

Seniors - Continue work on college applications; complete Early Decision/Early Action applications

Complete CSS Profile if required by colleges

FAFSA available October 1st

November 2016

5th—SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests

(register by 10/7 - late registration 10/21)

Seniors – File Early Decision/ Early Action applications

Work on remaining college applications

Step By Step Guide: The Coalition Application

In September of 2015, more than 80 universities came together to form the Coalition for Access, Affordability, and Success (CAAS). Their goals were to improve access to college education, revamp the application process, and to offer an alternative to the Common Application. Only some of these schools will accept the new application this fall, and currently only one school requires it, the University of Florida. As more colleges join the CAAS, it will become important to understand the key components of the Coalition Application and how to navigate its website.

The first step in completing the Coalition Application is to go to their website, www.mycoalition.org, and create an account. Once a username and password have been created, a student begins by creating a personal profile. This includes submitting contact information, test scores, financial aid needs, academic interests, extracurricular activities, and awards. Although this is a lengthy section, once the information has been added it can be shared with any school, saving time in the long run. All information is auto-saved when the session is inactive, or when the student moves to another section.

The second step is to upload items to a locker, an online storage component. Students can add media files, essays, official documents, artwork, awards, and video by dragging and dropping them. All files remain private unless students decide to share them with mentors of their choosing, and files can be renamed or purged as needed.

After adding to the locker, students can invite their mentors to collaborate by adding them to a contact list. Once they are part of this list, mentors can comment on files and give feedback, but they cannot actually edit or make changes to the files. Mentors must also create an account in the form of a 'supporter account', where they specify what type of support they are offering (for example, as a teacher, guidance counselor, or parent). Once a mentor has been added as a contact, a student can click on the 'share' icon attached to each document, or open the document and press share, select a contact, add a short message, and share it.

The third step is to build a list of colleges of interest. On the home page, go to 'build college list' and click 'add to list' for each school. Clicking on the link icon will pull up information about a specific college. Application requirements vary, so this is an important way to find out what essays are required and what components of the personal profile and the locker will have to be submitted.

The Coalition Application offers five essay prompts, listed on its website, and requires one main essay with a 550-word limit. Colleges have the option to add more school-specific prompts, which can be found through the college list. To apply to a school on the college list, click on the 'start application' prompt underneath the college's name, and follow all the links to the various application parts to complete it. These steps will vary depending on what the college wants to ask and what type of applicant the student is.
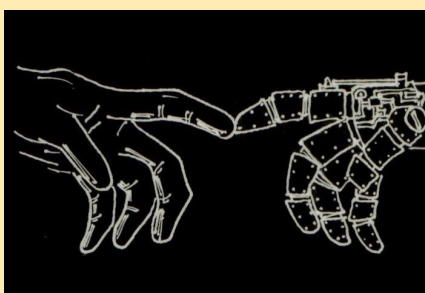
It is important to note that the help section includes technical support and guidance resources, along with a technical support link found at the bottom of each page. In these sections, students can find articles about all aspects of the college application process and get help with test preparation and mentoring.

While most schools do not require the Coalition Application, more are expected to join the CAAS soon. In the future, this may be as popular as the Common Application. It certainly doesn't hurt to be aware of how it works!

Majoring in Biomedical Engineering

Career Paths for Biomedical Engineering Majors

- Software and hardware engineering
- Medical device industry
- Innovative design and development
- Research and development
- Manufacturing
- Equipment testing and field servicing
- Clinical patient evaluation
- Technical documentation
- Sales
- Hospital equipment selection and support
- Teaching
- Management
- Undergraduate preparation for medicine, dentistry or law

www.abet.org— The Accreditation Board for Engineering & Technology. Includes information for students about the importance of accreditation, careers options, and student perspectives.

Recently, Forbes Magazine did a study to find the "most valuable" college major. What made a major "valuable" in their eyes? Competitive median starting pay, median mid-career pay, growth in salary, and wealth of job opportunities. The analysts for the Forbes article concluded that Biomedical Engineering is the major that is most worth your tuition, time and effort. But what is Biomedical Engineering?

The terms bioengineering and biomedical engineering are often used interchangeably. Sometimes, however, bioengineering refers to issues involving animal health and/or plants and agriculture, whereas biomedical engineering refers to a focus on human health.

There are four fields within biomedical engineering: clinical engineering, medical devices, medical imaging and tissue engineering. Clinical engineering involves operating and supervising the use of equipment used within hospitals and medical facilities. Medical device engineering is concerned with the invention and operation of diagnostic devices, devices that help cure diseases or devices that help the body operate normally such as pacemakers, diabetic pumps or dental implants. Medical imaging is concerned with the invention and use of equipment that takes images of the body to help diagnose and create treatment options for patients, including X-Ray machines and ultrasound equipment. Tissue engineering focuses on developing and implementing artificial organs. In some cases this also includes inventing technologies to regrow organs or create entirely new ones. Other specialties within biomedical engineering are biomaterials, biomechanics, rehabilitation engineering, and orthopedic engineering.

Bioengineering programs provide students with the scientific knowledge and engineering tools necessary for graduate study in the engineering or scientific disciplines, continued education in health professional schools, or employment in industry. Top notch programs provide students with a rigorous education in engineering and fundamental sciences, offer experience in state-of-the-art research in bioengineering, and teach the problem-solving and team-building skills necessary to succeed in a bioengineering career.

All students begin with foundation courses in biology, physics, chemistry, and math. They then take courses in basic engineering principles, computer science, statistics, and applied math. The last two years of most undergraduate programs include courses in materials, fluid mechanics, signals and systems, biomedical imaging, and ethics, among others. Students often have the opportunity to choose electives tailored to their individual interests.

Graduates with a bachelor's degree in bioengineering often work in collaboration with health care professionals. Effective communication skills, the ability to work in multidisciplinary teams, and an appreciation of the ethical and regulatory constraints governing the development, manufacture, and distribution of health care products, are all required.

Demand for biomedical engineers will be strong because an aging population is likely to need more medical care and because of increased public awareness of biomedical engineering advances and their benefits. The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects a 23% growth of job opportunities in this field.

Engineering programs should be ABET accredited, meaning they meet the standards established by the Accreditation Board for Engineering Technology. Look for this accreditation when researching college programs.

Financial Matters: Time for a FSA ID
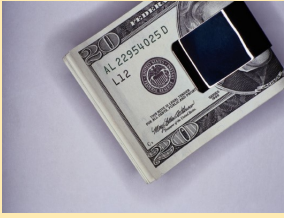
October 1st marks the opening of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid website for students applying for aid for the 2017-18 academic year. Although many colleges have much later deadlines for submitting the FAFSA, it is in the best interest of students to complete their applications as early as possible.

Increasingly, seniors are submitting their college applications for Early Decision and/or Early Action considera-tion. Completing your FAFSA early is more likely to result in your receiving your financial aid package close to the time that you learn about your acceptance. Knowing early about your family's net cost for a particular college will allow you to make an informed decision.

Both the student and one parent will need an *FSA ID*. The FSA ID is used to confirm your identity when you access your financial aid information and also allows you to electronically sign your federal student aid documents. To create your FSA ID, visit https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm. Follow these three steps:

1. Enter your log-in information.

- Provide your email address, a unique username, and password, and verify that you are at least 13 years old.
2. Enter your personal information.
- Provide your Social Security number, name, and date of birth.
- Include your mailing address, e-mail address, telephone number, and language preference.
- For security purposes, provide answers to five challenge questions.
3. Submit your FSA ID information.
- Agree to the terms and conditions.
- Verify your e-mail address.

Once created, you'll be ready to complete your FAFSA.

Demonstrating Interest

As leaves begin to change colors, admissions officers hit the road. Fall marks the beginning of their travel season, as admissions representatives from across the country (and abroad) brings to a venue near you the message of opportunities for students at their institution. If you are a junior or senior in high school, you need to make it a priority to meet the admissions officers from colleges on your short list when they come into your area.

For many selective colleges, the applicant's "demonstrated interest" becomes a "tip factor" in the admissions decision. While showing real interest in a college will not gain admittance for an unqualified applicant, it can make the difference for the student who's right on the cusp of acceptance. A recent study found that many colleges ranked the importance of demonstrat-ed interest right behind the applicant's essay and ahead of recommendation letters. In this highly competitive admissions environment, how can you demonstrate your genuine interest?

Visiting campus ranks as the highest expression of interest. Students who have spent time on campus generally have the best idea of fit, and are most likely to accept an offer of admission. The time to visit is before submitting your application; that way you can clearly describe why that college is right for you.

You may not be able to physically visit all of your targeted colleges, but you should make every effort to attend any information sessions held in your area. Some colleges offer regional sessions, sometimes as part of a group of colleges. Other colleges will pay a visit to your high school or a local college fair. Many colleges also offer alumni interviews in local areas to give applicants another way of learning about their institution. Be sure to take advantage of these close-to-home opportunities to express your interest in that college.

Occasional emails with a well thought-out question, or an update on your recent achievements, sent to the admissions officer handling your application, may also serve as a way to maintain contact and demonstrate continuing interest.

Considering a Community College?

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Community colleges often receive a bad rap. A representative from the Jack Kent Cooke Foundation, an organization that focuses on community college student development, underscores this when he states that "the top students at community colleges are among our country's greatest assets."

Ross Perot, Tom Hanks, Calvin Klein, and Walt Disney are counted among proud alumni of community colleges. About 40 percent of all traditional-aged college students start out at community college.

Let's dispel some myths about community colleges:

Myth: Getting a degree at a community college is not worth as much as a degree from a university.
Reality: Students who do well in community colleges have the ability to transfer to many of the country's most prestigious colleges and universities. Many community college graduates head straight into the labor force, making up over 80 percent of law enforcement officers and firefighters and over 62 percent of allied health professionals.

Myth: Community college credits don't transfer to a four-year university.
Reality: It is the student's responsibility to be on top of what courses are accepted for transfer and which ones are not. There are many "articulation agreements" now between community colleges and universities that specify what classes receive credit for comparable courses at their institution. According to the National Student Clearinghouse Research Center, only one in five community college students transfer to four-year universities, but those who do have high rates of college graduation.

Myth: Only older students and kids who were rejected everywhere go to community colleges.
Reality: Community colleges are designed to be flexible, therefore attracting students who work full-time; but 18-24-year-old students make up one of the largest groups on community college campuses.

Myth: Community college is only for vocational and technical students.
Reality: Community colleges offer an exciting variety of majors. Many students choose to start at a community college where they can take many (if not all) of the prerequisites for their major, and then transfer to a four-year college. This allows them a smaller class size for the introductory classes and enables them to jump right into the higher-level classes at a four year college or university.

Interest in community colleges is soaring, as the cost of traditional four year college increases. But besides the financial benefits, many students find the adjustment to college life at a community college an easier transition than being dropped at a huge campus. Many students may go to community college reluctantly but come to appreciate its virtues and benefits.