



DAVIS EDUCATION & CAREER CONSULTANTS LLC NEWSLETTER

www.dec-network.com

165 Mopus Bridge Road

Ridgefield, CT 06877

203.438.0624

davis@dec-network.com

January 2013

26th – SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests

(register by 12/28 - late
registration 1/11/13)

Seniors – Apply for a pin and then
complete and send the FAFSA any
time after Jan. 1st. Apply online at
www.fafsa.ed.gov

Seniors – Search and apply for
scholarships that match your
qualifications

Seniors – File any additional
college applications

February 2013

9th – ACT and ACT plus Writing

(register by 1/11 - late
registration 1/18)

Juniors – Begin your college
search

Juniors—Map out dates and
prepare for spring SAT and/or
ACT exams

Seniors – Contact colleges to be
sure your applications are com-
plete. Send mid-year grades if
required. Update colleges with
any new information that might
affect admission

Summer Planning

You're just returning from winter break and here we are, talking about making plans for your summer vacation. It may seem early, but as competition for college admission intensifies, those lazy days of summer have become a distant memory for many high school students. This is indeed the right time to begin planning for a meaningful summer experience.

Some colleges allow high school students to attend summer sessions, where they can study subjects that are not offered in high school, explore possible college majors, and earn transferable college credits. This is serious school, and students need to be motivated to spend their summer studying.

Spending six weeks at the University of Pennsylvania or Boston University is a great way to find out if urban life is as exciting as it sounds. For those who prefer a more scenic environment, Cornell has a strong summer program and a beautiful campus.

While summer college programs are expensive, often costing more than \$1,000 a week (financial aid is limited), they do provide a head start on the transition to college. Learning how to do research in a university library, how to live with a roommate, even how to do laundry, can help students feel more independent and self-confident.

There are many enrichment programs that don't offer college credit but do allow students to pursue their interests. Students who want to perfect their Spanish may want to do a homestay in Spain or Latin America. A budding engineer might enjoy a camp where they build robots.

But you don't need to spend your summer in class. Community service work can also lead to a meaningful summer experience. For example, the Student Conservation

Association sends crews of six to eight students, with two adult leaders, to national parks, forests and urban green spaces. There, crews repair hiking trails, build shelters, fight invasive species and protect wildlife habitats. There are also many local organizations that offer the opportunity for continued involvement through the school year.

Some students need or want to earn money over the summer. Having a job can help you learn how to work with people, prioritize tasks and manage time. Earning a paycheck can also provide a wonderful boost to self-esteem.

Summer jobs also offer opportunities to explore career interests. If you want to be a veterinarian, a job at an animal hospital is an excellent way to see what's involved in being a vet. Working as a camp counselor is great for students who may be interested in teaching or psychology.

Students may worry that a job won't look impressive on college applications. But admissions officers say they would love to read an essay from a student who spent the summer working as a supermarket checker.

Some students create their own summer programs. A prospective science major might contact professors at local colleges who are doing interesting research and see if they could use some help in the lab over the summer. This can be a way for a student to check out if microbiology is really where she's headed, and if things go well, ask for a recommendation letter.

With so many options, students need to keep in mind that there's not one "best" summer activity. If you find something you are excited about doing, you're likely to experience the kind of personal growth that makes for interesting college applications. Search for ideas for summer programs at www.EnrichmentAlley.com.

Focus on Majors: Biomedical Engineering

In May 2012 Forbes Magazine featured an article about the fifteen most valuable college majors. What made a major “valuable” in their eyes? Competitive median starting pay, median mid-career pay (at least 10 years in), growth in salary, and wealth of job opportunities. The analysts concluded that Biomedical Engineering is the major that is most worth your tuition, time and effort. So what exactly 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 the use of equipment found in 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 formulate 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 re-grow organs or create 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 indus-

try. 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 to succeed in a career in bioengineering.

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 needed skills.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that the employment of biomedical engineers is expected to grow by 62 percent from 2010 to 2020, much faster than the average for all occupations. Demand will be strong because an aging population needs more medical care and because of increased public awareness of biomedical engineering advances and their benefits.

Biomedical engineers earn a median starting salary of \$53,800, which grows to an average of \$97,800 by mid-career. In addition to high salaries, the field is expected to grow more than any other major on the Forbes Magazine's list.

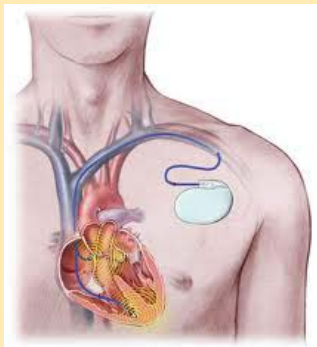
So, if you're considering bioengineering or biomedical engineering programs, research each program's objectives and required classes to understand whether the program will satisfy your needs.

Biomedical Engineering Careers Combine Doing Well with Doing Good

Famous Biomedical Advancements & Their Developers

Heart-lung machines...
John Heysham Gibbon

Pacemaker...
Wilson Greatbatch



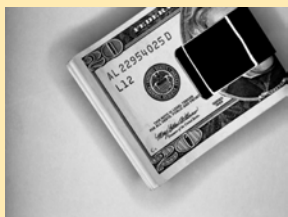
Cochlear Implant...
William House

X-ray Technology...
Thomas Edison

CT Scan...
Godfrey N. Hounsfield

Engineering programs should be ABET accredited, meaning they meet the standards established by the Accreditation Board for Engineering Technology. Visit www.abet.org for more information.

Financial Matters: Time to Submit the FAFSA



The Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the FAFSA, provides the foundation for the college financial aid process. Colleges and many scholarship foundations use the report generated by the FAFSA to evaluate an applicant's financial need.

Complete the FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1st each year. The FAFSA application is available online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Follow directions carefully; errors in filing will slow down the process and may make you ineligible for aid. Both you and your parents will need PINs, Personal Identification Numbers that serve as your electronic signature. Get your PIN before completing your FAFSA. You can apply for a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov.

To complete the FAFSA, you'll need copies of your parents' and your tax returns for the preceding year, as well as social security numbers and other demographic information. Financial records, such as information about assets like stocks, bank accounts, real estate, and businesses, will also be needed. Young men over 18 must be registered with Selective Service to qualify for aid. Make a copy of the completed form before submitting.

In two to three weeks you'll receive a Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR reports an expected family contribution (EFC) – the amount you and your family will be expected to contribute to your first year of study. The difference between the EFC and the total cost of your first year of attendance equals your established need. The SAR will also tell you if you qualify for a Pell Grant – gift money provided for students with the highest established need. Check the SAR for accuracy and make any needed corrections. Colleges you've applied to receive a

copy of your SAR at your request. The SAR is used by the college financial aid office to build a financial aid package for each accepted student. Some colleges will meet all of your established need while others will have funds to only partially meet need. The financial aid package you receive will most likely offer a combination of grants (gift money), loans, and work study. You are free to accept any part of the package you wish. A new FAFSA must be filed each year and students must re-qualify annually for college financial aid.

With the high cost of private colleges, many families will qualify for some type of financial assistance. It is not unusual for families earning over \$150,000 annually to be eligible. For this reason, don't just assume you won't qualify for financial aid. Complete and submit a new FAFSA each year; family financial circumstances often change and eligibility for aid could increase dramatically whenever another sibling begins college.

Thinking About a Major in Art? BFA or BA?

Students who want to study art can attend a liberal arts college or university, where they can pursue other academic interests as well as art, or head for an art school, where they would concentrate on developing their talent.

If you choose to attend an art school, like Rhode Island School of Design, you'll find a community of people who share your passion for art. You'll be exposed to intensive, high-level training, and an exchange of ideas among creative people. These schools have valuable alumni networks that can help you find employment.

In addition to the basic question of talent, students considering art school need to ask themselves if they are passionate enough about art to spend at

least 15-20 hours a week on it in addition to studio or class time. Art students are more likely to be successful if they have a clear creative vision, an ability to discuss their technique, and a healthy ego. Students will be expected to give and also receive feedback.

After four years at an Art Institute, you would graduate with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. While about 30-35% of the curriculum would be non-art courses, even courses in history or politics are likely to approach the subjects from an artist's perspective.

The BFA trains students to be professional artists; this option is best for students who are sure about their commitment to art.

If you enjoy studying academic sub-

jects as much as creating art, your best bet might be a college or university with an excellent art department. You could major in art and would graduate with a Bachelor of Art (BA) degree, with at least half of your coursework in other subjects. One advantage is that if you change your mind about studying art, there are dozens of other majors to pick from.

Another option would be to attend a university, like Washington University, which has a School of Art offering such majors as painting, sculpture, and ceramics. You could combine different interests, earning a BFA from the School of Art and a BA from the College of Arts & Sciences or a BS in Business Administration from the School of Business.

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Consultants LLC

165 Mopus Bridge Road

Ridgefield, CT 06877

Phone:

203-438-0624

E-Mail:

davis@dec-network.com

Website:

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What to Do if You Were Deferred

Early applicants were rewarded for their efforts with one of three possible admissions decisions: accepted, denied, or deferred. Acceptances are a cause for rejoicing—if to an early decision school, your application process is completed. All you need to do now is withdraw those applications that are still pending and enjoy the rest of your senior year.

Denials (especially those to schools you saw as targets or safeties) should make you take another look at your college list. Should you reconsider some of your choices and perhaps add another safety school or two to the mix?

But it is deferrals that put you in limbo. Your ED or EA school has just offered to reconsider your application under the regular decision plan. That generally means that they are still considering you for admission, but would like some more data that might influence their decision. Most often, they'd like to see your mid-transcript to make sure that your grades are continuing their upward trajectory. Sometimes they simply want to take a

look at the strength of the regular decision pool before rendering a decision in your case. But there are additional things you can do to make sure your application stands out more in the regular decision round.

Begin by writing a note to the director of admissions, expressing your thanks that they are still considering you for admissions. Provide the admissions officer with an update on your activities since you applied—including any new projects, honors, awards, or achievements. Mention that you will have a mid-year report sent to them as soon as it is available, and ask if there is any other information that might be helpful to them in rendering a decision. You might offer to interview, or to send them an additional letter of recommendation. By following up in this way, you assure the college that you are still a serious candidate for admission, and that you are eager to attend that school if admitted. And this time, your efforts may be rewarded with an offer of admission!