



DAVIS EDUCATION & CAREER CONSULTANTS LLC NEWSLETTER

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February 2017

11th – ACT and ACT plus Writing

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 complete. Send mid-year grades if required. Update colleges with any new information that might affect admission

March 2017

11th – SAT and SAT plus Writing

(register by 2/10 - late registration 2/21)

9th, 10th and 11th grade students - Make plans for a productive summer. Investigate summer programs, jobs, internships

11th grade students – Create an initial list of colleges.

Prepare for spring SAT/ACT exams.

Attending College in Canada

The number of international students attending college in Canada increases each year for several reasons. The cost of living and tuition are, on average, lower than in the United States, the United Kingdom, or Australia. Top Canadian universities consistently rank among the best in the world. Their university campuses are rated highly for safety and happiness, and are known for their inclusive, multicultural student bodies. Due to an emphasis placed on research, there are many opportunities for undergraduates to get involved. Canadian colleges also have a shorter academic year than in the US; school runs from September through April.

It is important to note that there is no common application other than in Ontario, which allows students to apply to multiple schools at once. Each university has its own admission requirements, but the process is faster and easier than applying in the U.S. and can be completed online by submitting personal information, educational history, official transcripts, the intended program of study, and the start date. Usually there are no supplemental essays, test scores, or letters of recommendation required, but check with each school for exceptions. Some Canadian universities have multiple start dates and others have rolling admissions, but once they have received your transcript and application, it is not uncommon to hear a decision within a week. Final requirements to enroll vary. Many schools have 'conditional offer of admission' conditions, such as maintaining your academic average and graduating from high school. When you receive a conditional letter of admission, it can be used to begin the process of applying for a study permit.

What do you need to do to attend college in Canada? A passport is required to enter the country. You must also apply for a study permit, which is mandatory for any

student studying in Canada longer than four months. To be eligible for a study permit, you must have first been accepted by a 'designated learning institution' in Canada. You also have to provide documentation showing that you have enough funds to pay your tuition and living expenses for a full year. You need to prove that you are a law-abiding citizen with no criminal record, and are in good health. Finally, you must satisfy an immigration officer that you will leave Canada at the end of your authorized stay. A study permit allows you to work part-time on or off campus during the school year and full-time during academic breaks.

If the study permit application is approved, a letter of introduction will be sent as confirmation. This letter must be shown to immigration upon arrival in Canada. An eTA (Electronic Travel Authorization) is then issued for citizens of countries who require one. The eTA is valid for five years or until your passport expires. A visitor visa is issued if you are from a country that requires their citizens to have one. US citizens do not need an eTA or a visitor visa.

There are a few considerations to plan for if you will be attending a Canadian school as an international student. To avoid paying costly international wire transfer and credit card fees, get a cashier's check from your bank in currency calculated at the current exchange rate to pay your tuition. To bypass foreign transaction fees, consider opening a local bank account in Canada. Look into different cell phone plans so you don't have to pay roaming charges when calling or texting from Canada. If gaining a new perspective, surrounded by students from all over the world, sounds exciting, consider applying to a Canadian university!

More information about studying in Canada can be found at www.educanada.ca and www.cic.gc.ca.

Financial Matters: Low-Cost Ideas for Summer Adventures



Money may be tight, but it's not necessary to give up on finding a cost-effective way to spend a productive summer. Free and low cost summer enrichment programs are out there—you just need to look a bit harder to find them, or think outside the box about what makes a productive summer.

Begin by considering your interests. Our nation's need for engineers and scientists has led to the creation of numerous free and/or low cost programs in these areas. The Research Science Institute at MIT, the MITE program at the University of Texas, the ASM Mate-

rials Camp held at numerous universities, the Bridge Program in Biomedical Sciences at Sewanee, and the Summer Institute for Mathematics at the University of Washington are all provided free of charge or at low cost to qualified students. Interested in the environment? Check out the American Hiking Society's Volunteer Vacations or the Student Conservation Association programs. Students with interests in the humanities and social sciences might look to the Carleton Liberal Arts Experience for a low-cost enrichment program. Telluride offers free residential programs for students with outstanding qualifications, while individual states often sponsor Governor's programs or honors institutes. Dual enrollment classes taken at a nearby community college are often provided free to high school students.

Many hospitals have outreach programs designed to interest students in the health sciences—check with your local institution for opportunities. Some state attorney's offices allow student interns to shadow their lawyers. Contact your city government—some departments even offer paid internships to high school students.

Look, too, to local businesses. Aspiring veterinarians can volunteer at their local vet's office or work at an animal shelter or rescue organization. Budding artists might help out at an art school program, while future scientists can volunteer to work as research assistants for professors. Use your imagination and work your (or your parents') network of contacts.

For more ideas, check out www.blayz.com or www.teenlife.com.

The Five "Ps" of Choosing Colleges

With over 3,500 colleges and universities in the U.S., deciding where to apply – and ultimately which college to attend – can seem overwhelming, especially as you begin your college search. The task can be less daunting if your family agrees on a game plan for sorting out the options. The first step? Deciding what your priorities are for your college search.

For most students and their families, college search priorities boil down to one or more of the "five P's": Place, Program, Prestige, Price, and Personal. Let's take a look at some of the questions you and your parents might ask yourselves in order to weigh the importance of each "P." As you read through these questions, jot down any answers that seem particularly

relevant to you.

Place: Are you dreaming about attending college in a big city? Is staying close to home important? Is a particular part of the country calling you? Do you prefer warm weather most of the year or want to experience all four seasons?

Program: Do you already have a specific college major or career in mind? Are you hoping for strong advising to help you figure out your interests? Do you prefer a school with more flexible general education requirements or a more structured curriculum? Is studying abroad or access to internships critical? Do you need support programs for a learning disability?

Prestige: Are "bragging rights" about

the college you attend important to you? Will you only consider schools that rank high on published surveys?

Price: What is a realistic annual budget for your family for college expenses? Are you hoping for scholarships? Are you willing to take on additional student and parent loans for a more expensive college?

Personal: Are you hoping to participate in certain extracurricular activities – such as athletics, music, or Greek life – during college? Would you prefer to attend a religiously-affiliated college? Do you want a school where students tend to be more liberal or more conservative, or perhaps a mix? Are there other characteristics you hope your future

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The Five “P’s” of Choosing Colleges *(continued)*

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student peers share? Do you have preferences about the types of on-campus housing available? Do you have other personal needs or desires that must be met for your college experience to be successful?



Reed College

Once you’ve answered the above questions, you’ll likely find that certain of the “P’s” are more important to you than others. Write each “P” on an index card and then put the cards in order of their im-

portance to you. If one or more is not critical to you, drop those items from your list of search criteria; while they may end up being items that are nice to have in a college, they’re not ones you need to worry about during your college hunt.

Don’t be surprised if your priorities change as you begin to research, visit, and apply to colleges; changing your mind is part of the college search process. As your list begins to take shape, revisit the 5 P’s to evaluate how each college fits your current priorities.

The “5 P’s” can also be a useful starting point for family discussions about college. Students and parents can work through the list of questions individually and create their own ranking of the importance of each “P.” Then, meet with your counselor to discuss how and why you’ve prioritized the five categories. Often, you’ll discover ideas for your college search that you or your parents hadn’t considered before.