AUGUST NEWSLETTER

FROM LAMEIRE COLLEGE CONSULTING

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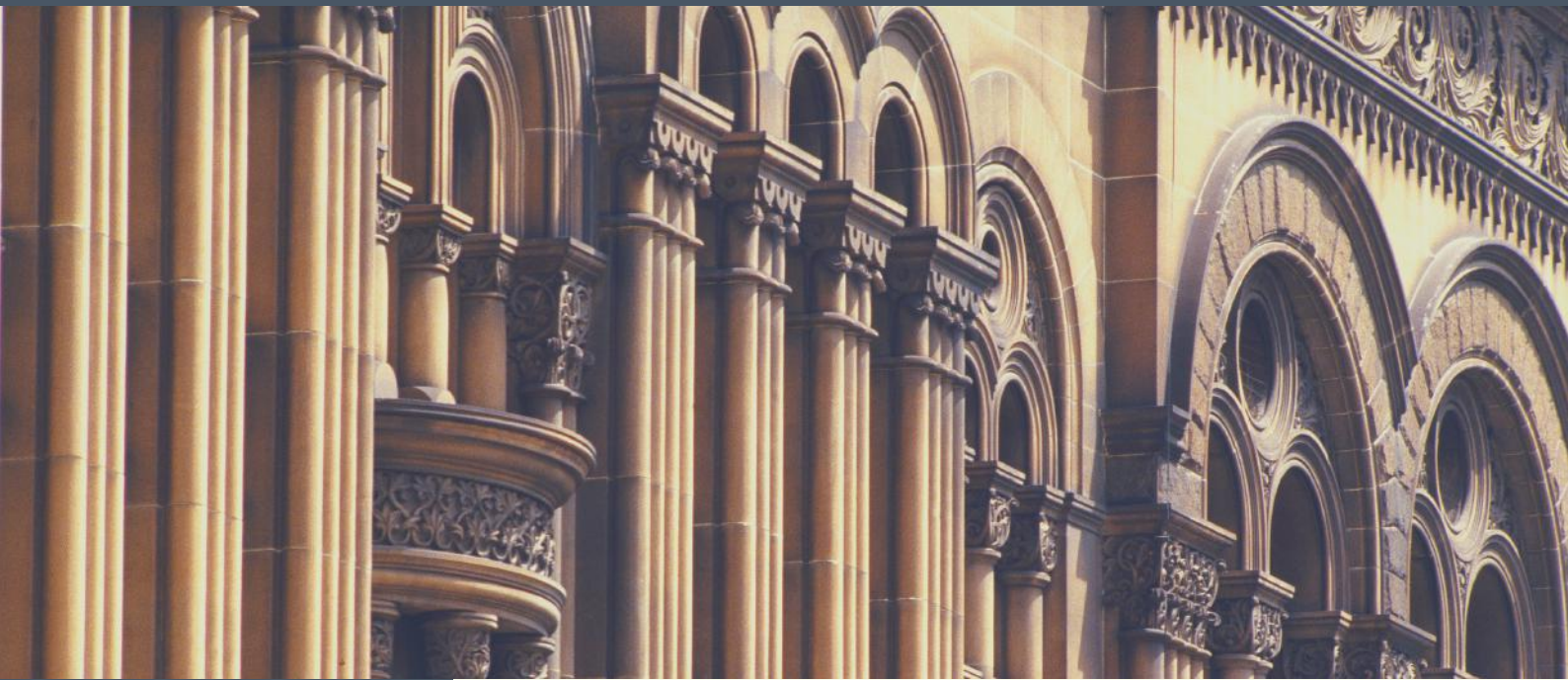
TEST REPORTING FOR THE ACT, SAT, AND SAT II

BY SHIRLEY YOUNG

Now that the summer is coming to a close, we need to start focusing on several important components of the application (besides the online application itself) that will need to be sent out. Depending on the school, this can include letters of recommendation, transcripts, and test scores. In this article, we will detail what to do about the ACT, SAT I, and SAT II test scores.

In the past, most colleges have required that students both report (as in enter into the applications) as well as send in (requested and paid for through College Board and ACT) their test scores. However, over the past few years, a new option has emerged: self-reporting test scores. What this means is that for schools that have this self-reporting option, students are not required to pay to officially send in their test scores to those colleges (again, through the College Board and ACT websites). Instead, they are simply responsible for making sure that details about their test scores are

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accurately entered into the college applications. The reason behind this movement is simple: colleges wish to help students save money, especially those students taking multiple tests and applying to a long list of colleges.

While this may seem like a fantastic development, it can actually complicate matters. Students who choose to self-report their scores wherever possible need to keep detailed lists of which schools offer this option and which schools don't and still require that test scores be officially sent in. They also need to be diligent in checking their accounts to make sure that the schools that do require test scores to be sent in have all received these official score reports. In terms of figuring out exactly what schools require and don't require, this is something that we can provide guidance on with a chart of notes - however, it will be the student's responsibility to make sure that each required test report has been submitted successfully.

Now, students can also choose to just send test scores out to every one of the colleges on their lists. The benefit is that this is much easier - you won't need to consult the chart for every school, and you can rest assured that you won't accidentally forget to send test scores to a school that does need it. The only drawback, of course, would be the cost: College Board charges $12 to send any combination of tests (both SAT I and SAT II) to a single school; the ACT charges $13 per test, per school. One question about this method that I often hear: "But won't the colleges that don't require official test scores be upset if students still send them test scores through College Board?" No, not at all. If a student was to send official scores to a school that doesn't require official scores - say, the University of Illinois - the test reports simply wouldn't be added to the student's file.

In the fall we will be meeting with students regarding test scores and transcripts, as well as how to send them out. We will cover this information again during that meeting. In the meantime, however, please consider which method you would like to follow when it comes time to submit test scores: sending out test scores to all schools, or sending test scores only to those schools that absolutely require official submissions from College Board

"FOR SCHOOLS THAT HAVE THIS SELF-REPORTING OPTION, STUDENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO PAY TO OFFICIALLY SEND IN THEIR TEST SCORES."

UC WEBSITE UPDATE

BY KARA SMITH

UC has gotten a face lift! Aside from its general maintenance, UC has maintained the same application layout for the past 10 years, which wasn't doing much to keep up with the constantly changing digital landscape. Thus, UC has undergone a full redesign to help keep up with student's needs, expectations, and current technology. UC wanted to address the key complaints and suggestions that they had received, and the result is an application that is more purposeful and user-friendly. I've put together some of the highlights!

All changes are centered around making the website easier to navigate and the application process more streamlined, with modifications for an intuitive interface, clearer language, and easier accessibility for those with disabilities. In the words of UC, "WHAT we ask of students is the same, HOW we ask it, is different."

Students often complained that the previous format made it difficult for them to describe themselves and their background, but adapting clearer language and a modernized design has made the application both easier to navigate and understand.

With the Activities and Awards section, the limit for how many can be included is 20. Anything under the umbrella of volunteer work, educational preparation programs, extracurriculars, community service and work would go under this section. In the past, there have been 5 slots for each of these experiences. For instance, only five awards or five extracurriculars could be included. Now, the total slots are fewer, but there are no individual "sub-activity" restrictions. So, having 20 slots without restrictions will allow students a better opportunity to showcase their accomplishments. Students can also include a short description of the award, such as the level of recognition, when they received it, how recipients were chosen, and so on. In order to help students with these changes, we have already started sending out requests for detailed activity statements from the 12th grade students, and will be editing those to fit UC's current priorities.

One question that has come up a lot is whether or not the current UC essay questions will also be changed with the new website. The answer to that is no, and the essay topics will be the same as last year!

These are the main changes that students can expect, and these adaptations will make the application process easier for students going forward.

The Best UC Essays: Content is King!

BY EDDIE LAMEIRE

There are three words when it comes to UC essays: content, content, content. If you read the entry from last month about the Common App essay, you will see a lot of differences between UC and Common App essays. For Common App, you write about your personality. You tell a story. You reflect.

Ignore all of that when it comes to UC essays!

Some UC campuses get close 100,000 applications. That means the essays are read quickly! When I was with UCSD, we would read applications in about 5 minutes. Students need to get to the point fast, without flowery language, dialogue, or anything too stylistic.

Most UC essays can follow a fairly straightforward structure: Explain the situation, describe what you did, and say what you learned. End the essay with your aspirations for the future, but don't take up too much space with generalities or overly emotional language.

Throughout the essay, make sure to include quantitative, tangible evidence of your accomplishments. Did you win an award? Weave the name of the award and why you won it into your essay. Did you earn the title of captain, president, or Eagle Scout? Include that in your essay. Did you work 20 hours a week from 9th to 12th grade? Add that type of information into the essay as well.

In all cases, with the UC essays, we do not want to "leave money on the table," meaning this: if you have significant accomplishments, they must be worked into the essays. For example, UC loves leadership. If you have leadership experience you will most likely respond to Prompt 1: Describe your leadership experience. However, you can also include leadership experiences in other prompts. When responding to Prompt 3 about a talent or skill, add leadership positions you held in your field of expertise, in the event they were not covered in Prompt 1. For Prompt 7 about community service, you can discuss leadership experience you displayed in these projects.

The work that we have done with your students has given us a very good idea of their accomplishments. The UC essay frameworks will address the best parts of the students' resumes and achievements. Again, these achievements and accomplishments are the most important parts of the UC essays. The Common App essay will be elegant, and should show personality. UC essays, though, are entirely functional. Prioritize the content, and the essays will be successful!

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UC BUSINESS MAJORS

BY CLAIRE SCHADLER

Although all UC campuses are part of the same system, they each differ greatly in a variety of factors. Knowing those differences is important and can help students make an informed choice when deciding where to apply. While there are basic differences such as size, location, and campus culture, another important aspect of each campus is the majors they offer.

Let's use business as an example and consider a prospective business student's options. If a business student is interested in Business Administration, there are actually only three UC campuses to choose from: Berkeley, Irvine, and Riverside.

At Berkeley, students must apply to the Business Administration major offered through Haas Business School during their sophomore or junior year. The acceptance rate for freshman admitted students in 2018 was 31.7%. Berkeley also offers a few special programs that require additional applications as freshman or sophomores. These programs include the highly selective Management, Entrepreneurship, & Technology Program, a Global Management Program, and a joint degree program in biology and business.

UC Irvine offers two highly competitive programs, a BA in Business Administration and a BS in Business Information Management, through the Paul Merage School of Business. For students who major in Business Administration, they must choose an emphasis in Accounting, Finance, Health Care Management, Information Systems, Marketing, Operations and Decision Technologies, or Organization and Management. Riverside is the third UC campus that offers Business Administration. In this program, students are also asked to pick one of the following concentrations: finance, accounting, marketing, management, business analytics, and information systems.

In addition to Business Administration, students who are interested in studying other business-related majors have a variety of options at all nine campuses, with options ranging from Economics and Operations Research and Management Science to Political Economy and Quantitative Economics depending on each campus.

Each UC campus has something different to offer and knowing the details of each campus and what majors they offer can help you pick the right fit for you!