

College Admissions has changed – what will you do?

**“Take the Stress Out of College Admissions:
What you need to know right now!”**

All information has been researched and confirmed from multiple sources. This information is changing daily so please check for updates. College Ready is not liable for misuse of information.

College Ready



The College Ready Plan:

Shellee Howard

Founder/CEO of College Ready

www.collegereadyplan.com

Shellee@collegereadyplan.com

(949) 235-7350

College Ready has a plan to help!

Because we care

College admission and tests may be the last thing your family may choose to think about right now. That's a valid and healthy choice, and for far too many it's a necessity.

It's also OK to cope by planning for the future. Student's are so used to being busy that all this downtime and separation is causing them to be anxious or depressed. College Ready cares about your student and would like to share what we do know.

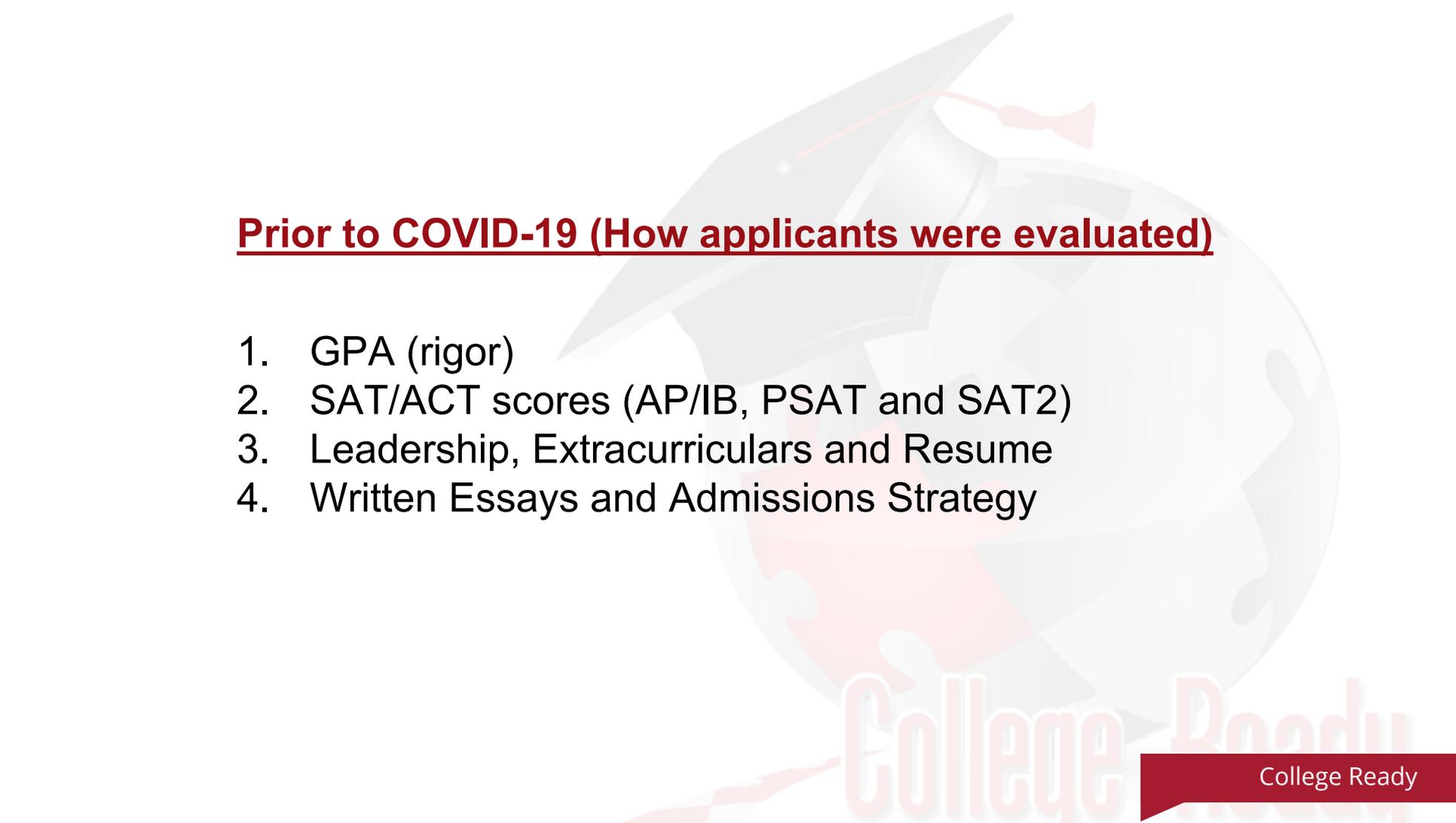
Stressed before? Now add in the Coronavirus.....

- Remember the high school counselor that meet with you 30 minutes over 4 years? Have they contacted you? Do they know how much money you have to spend on college?
- Where will you get your answers?
- How will your student stay organized?
- What will their story be?
- The Common Application opens August 1st are you ready?



What we know today

- **The COVID-19 Coronavirus is changing daily.** Every student is being impacted and many are sitting home anxious for the news. The college admissions process is overwhelming enough, and the virus is just adding to your students' anxiety.
- At College Ready we do not take this situation lightly. We are on webinars with the heads of colleges and universities to try to get you the information first.



Prior to COVID-19 (How applicants were evaluated)

1. GPA (rigor)
2. SAT/ACT scores (AP/IB, PSAT and SAT2)
3. Leadership, Extracurriculars and Resume
4. Written Essays and Admissions Strategy

Post COVID-19 (Changes)

1. 1.Essays + Admissions Strategy
2. Resume + Passion
3. Video Interviews Virtually With Students
4. GPA - COVID-19 changes
5. SAT/ACT optional

If you thought college admission in the USA was difficult to navigate prior to COVID-19, wait until you see all the changes coming! Your students' essays just got a lot more important in the holistic process. Your student's essays and package will be reviewed in under 10 minutes.

What will your story be?

College Admissions in 2021 will be a truly comprehensive year. The essays will be more important than ever. Your story/strategy will be more important than ever. What you did during this “stay at home” time will tell a lot about your student and what matters most to them.

College Admission readers are looking for students who took initiative when there was unknown.

The unknown, is now the new normal

The entire UC system, Amherst, Boston U, Iowa State, Pomona, Santa Clara, TCU, Tufts, Vassar, Williams, The ENTIRE state of Oregon. And dozens more colleges are going "test-optional."

More announcements every single day.

Some trying it out for a year. Some for 2 years. Some declaring a 3 year pilot so ALL high school grade levels are covered. Some moving test-optional indefinitely.

Then the CEO of The College Board announces it's planning an at-home SAT test for the fall.

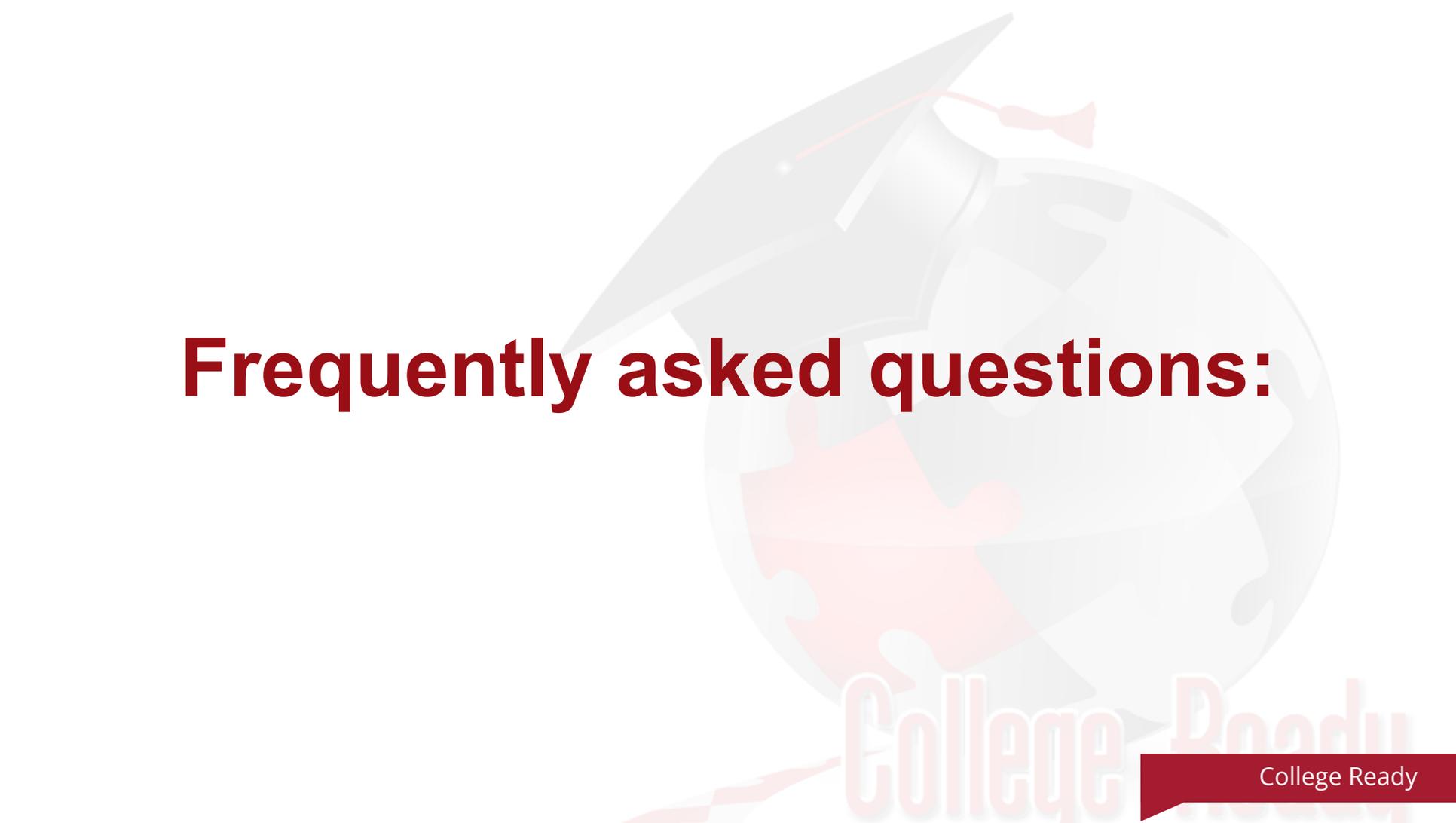
The importance of planning

College Ready is always looking to help our students have their own stand out story. During a meeting with one of her students several weeks ago, Shellee was reviewing one of her student's strategies and found an opportunity to help a quiet Leader, lead in a huge way. That is how the COVID-19 Relief Passion Project was started.

Why? Grace has the best GPA you can have and a perfect 36 ACT (which was taken in 10th grade the first time). She founded a Passion Project as a Freshmen and had a ton of service hours, but something was missing, Leadership! Grace had small leadership roles but needed something to help her stand out. What started as an idea we shared turned out to be a Global Passion Project where Grace is getting written up in newspapers, interviewed and is now leading others of all ages all over the Globe.

Orders are coming in from local Nurses and Doctors, Medical Students, First Responders, Elderly homes and even orphanages in Kenya, Africa who requested 7,000!

Other College Ready student's have now joined the mission and are becoming leaders in their own division of the project. This would not happen without a plan.

The background of the slide features a large, semi-transparent graphic. On the left, a grey graduation cap (mortarboard) is shown in profile, facing right. Behind it is a stylized globe with a grid of latitude and longitude lines. The globe is rendered in shades of grey and white, with some areas appearing slightly more translucent. The overall aesthetic is clean and professional, typical of an educational presentation.

Frequently asked questions:

Grades: We have always shared with you that grades are always the most important, now what?

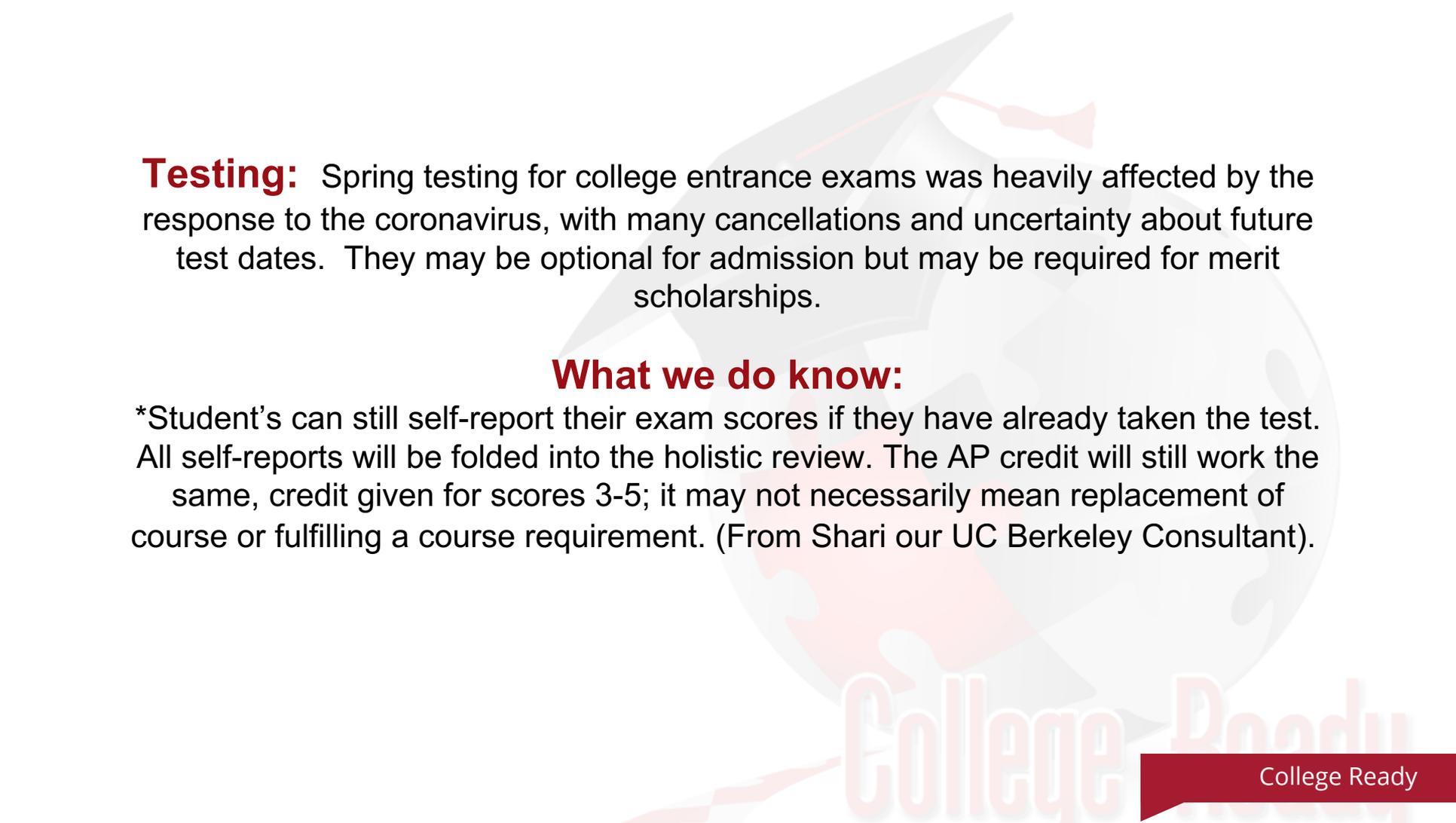
Most high schools worldwide are closed temporarily, and many have already announced they will remain closed and offer online instruction for the remainder of the school year. This will impact transcripts for students across the globe, from 9th grade through college.

What we do know:

Admissions officers will take into consideration the unusual circumstances that students have encountered this semester.

Right now, it looks like many admissions officers plan to focus more on the grades students were able to receive for the fall semester as a gauge of the second semester. The admissions officers might assume that the grades students received in the fall would be maintained in the spring. This also applies to students who may be receiving pass/fail grades.

If you were already on an upward grade trend, colleges will take that into consideration when looking at your whole transcript – not just the pass/fail grade itself.



Testing: Spring testing for college entrance exams was heavily affected by the response to the coronavirus, with many cancellations and uncertainty about future test dates. They may be optional for admission but may be required for merit scholarships.

What we do know:

*Student's can still self-report their exam scores if they have already taken the test. All self-reports will be folded into the holistic review. The AP credit will still work the same, credit given for scores 3-5; it may not necessarily mean replacement of course or fulfilling a course requirement. (From Shari our UC Berkeley Consultant).

SAT/SAT Subject Tests: The May 2 SAT exam has been canceled, and The College Board will decide in early-to-mid-April if the June test will also be canceled. For international students, the June test date is only offering SAT Subject Tests, and no announcement has been made yet if the SAT will be offered in addition to the Subject Tests. The College Board is considering adding additional test dates this summer, but that remains to be decided. It is possible they will offer more test dates in certain regions heavily affected by shutdowns related to coronavirus. The College Board has also stated that it is possible they will adjust future SAT exam questions to take into account that students have missed a large chunk of their school year.

ACT: The April ACT, both in the US and internationally, has been moved to June. Students registered for the April exams should have received instructions from the ACT on how to register for free for the June exam or any future test date. No announcements on any additional testing dates have been made, and no timeline on when the ACT will decide if the June exam will proceed has been provided.

TOEFL: ETS announced that students will be able to take the TOEFL at home this spring, following the closure of testing sites across the globe in response to the coronavirus pandemic. Currently the at-home exam is available for students in the US, Canada, Colombia, France, Germany, Italy, Spain, Hong Kong (China) and Macau (China). Students who were planning to take the TOEFL this spring as part of their college entrance exams should continue to prepare and take the test within their original time frame – or earlier if they're ready.

Many Colleges Going Test Optional

In direct response to testing cancellations and limited availability of future test dates for students applying for fall 2021 admission, some schools have announced that they will be test-optional for the upcoming admissions season. College Ready anticipates more schools will adopt similar policies for the 2020-21 admissions cycle, with some like MIT adjusting their testing policy permanently.

That said, not everyone will go test-optional, and many schools will still allow students to self-report their scores, so **students should still consider testing as part of their college prep plan. Check www.fairtest.org**

Will Colleges Accept AP Credit:

As many students know, AP Exams will be taken at home this year. Each exam will be 45 minutes long with questions designed to test students' analytical thinking to help better implement the test at home and to help prevent cheating scenarios. The College Board recommends that students use the full 45 minutes to score well on the exam. In order to help students prepare, The College Board is providing free AP review courses and materials.

With the adjusted AP exam format, many students are wondering if colleges will accept those exam scores for college credit. Expect that AP credit awarded will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis at every college.

Question:
How to Improve Your Extracurricular Profile During Coronavirus

Answer:

This is an optimal time to pursue self-driven projects which are extremely valuable in that they demonstrate your skills and interests in an authentic way, in addition show your initiative.

The more quantifiable your achievements are, the easier it is to demonstrate their value to admissions officers as well.

Extracurricular Activities:

Extracurricular activities are a great way to explore your interests and colleges want to see what students are doing in their spare time, so what happens when all of those carefully selected activities are no longer happening? Keep in mind – activities are interrupted for EVERYONE right now.

What we do know:

Admissions officers know this and they want students to know that these interruptions in regular activities will not be held against them. It remains to be seen if the Common App will provide an option in the 2020-21 application for students to provide more context on their activities due to the coronavirus response, but if not students can still use the Additional Information section to elaborate on gaps in their activity list if they choose. Students can also use this time to work on Personal Development and their Passion Projects from their home.

Question:

Canceled College Visits and Accepted Student Days

Answer:

One of the best ways to get a feel for a college without setting foot on campus is to attend a virtual tour. These days, hundreds of schools offer free virtual tours showcasing the classrooms, dorms, and even facilities like cafeterias and gyms.

Join their social media groups / Forums / Vlogs / Blogs
Contact the local representative
Ask to speak with alumni or current students

If you would like to meet a student from that school by phone or online, Email: Shellee@CollegeReadyPlan.com and let me know which school you are interested in. I will ask one of our past students to contact you.

Summer Programs:

Most summer programs, especially pre-college or bridge programs at major colleges and universities are up in the air right now. While some might be canceled altogether, some schools rely on the revenue generated from summer programs and will need to find a way to provide some kind of program, so expect many to switch to virtual experiences at a discounted rate.

What we do know:

Students should still explore these programs as options and apply if it's the right fit for them, but you don't have to do a virtual program to have a productive summer. Exploring interests through reading, starting a blog on a topic of interest, or finding safe ways to fill a need in your community that has developed because of the response to coronavirus are just a few examples of what you CAN do.

International Students:

All of the factors mentioned above, especially testing, on top of other issues like travel restrictions, visa processing delays, and more are deeply impacting international applicants to US universities. For those planning to enroll this fall, it remains to be seen if they'll be able to make it to campus.

What we do know:

For international students planning to apply to college this fall, canceled testing and travel restrictions will make it even harder to plan for the admissions process. This isn't just worrisome for international students themselves, but also colleges and universities that rely on tuition from international students as a source of revenue. It's critical for international students planning to apply to colleges in the US this fall to develop a plan for applications now, which includes available testing, a balanced college list with varying deadlines, and so much more.

Applications Evaluated:

Admissions officers are human, and they're also encountering the same difficulties as everyone else – canceled events, working from home, inability to engage in regular activities, and more. They understand the toll this is taking on students and will take this into account when evaluating applications for the class of 2025.

What we do know:

The Admissions officers will “read in context,” meaning they will certainly take into consideration activities that stopped short or competitions that were canceled because of coronavirus. This applies to all aspects of the college application, from grades and test scores to activities, demonstrated interest, and more. Especially with many schools going test-optional for the admissions cycle, the process may become even more holistic as colleges evaluate applicants within the context that this was a very unusual school year.

While we don't expect schools to dramatically alter their admissions rubrics, those guidelines will certainly become more flexible allowing admissions officers to weigh factors differently in order to give a more holistic review.

Juniors = Rising Seniors:

There is a lot of uncertainty right now for current high school juniors, however, that does not mean that you can't be proactive. If you're planning to apply to college this fall, here's what you can do to stay on track.

What we do know:

Stay Engaged: If you're a student affected by school closures due to coronavirus, it's important to continue to stay engaged with your studies. Give full attention to any virtual lessons that your school might offer. If your school is not offering supplemental or virtual courses during the closure, seek out other opportunities. Online platforms like Coursera, edX and Arizona State University online offer a ton of course options for students. Many educational resources are being offered for free right now so do some research and explore your options.

Continue Test Prep: While testing is currently suspended at least until June, you can use this time to continue your test prep. Don't assume that all schools will go test-optional. In fact, many may still require test scores as part of the application process. If you're planning to apply to schools that currently require SAT or ACT scores you need to continue to prepare, especially since there is the possibility of additional test dates being offered this year. Not only will this help you reach your goal score, it will also keep you engaged while school is out. Many tutors offer virtual lessons so that students can continue to learn remotely. Please look in your student portal for our recommendations.

Do Virtual Information Sessions and Visits: There's no substitute for an in-person visit, but many colleges are offering virtual information sessions and directing students to virtual tours of the campus. While a virtual tour isn't the same experience, the virtual information session can be! You can learn about the school from an admissions officer and in many cases get your questions answered directly.

Refine School List: This is a critical college prep time for students both in the US and abroad, so now is the time for students to take a look at their balanced college list and refine it based on their current goals and any obstacles they think they might face down the line. We recommend prioritizing what is the most important factors to your family: Academic fit, Financial fit or Social fit.

What will your Coronavirus story be? Colleges may ask you, “How did you spend your time during COVID-19”? Will you feel good about your answer? If not, College Ready can help you fix that. We have students all over the world that are doing amazing things from the comfort of their own home. How will your essay compete?

Prep for College Apps: Many students might not be ready to think about college applications right now – and that’s okay! But for those who are, now is good time to get a head start. Create your Common App account and become familiar with the platform. Brainstorm some essay topics (try NOT to write about coronavirus) and work on a rough outline of your personal statement.

Complete your Activities Tracker and Senior Template.

When will you ever have more time than now to complete this?

When school goes back in session and it will, how will you complete what is needed?

We are here for you.

If you do not know what you could be doing right now to improve your chances of getting into your dream college, please let us know. If you have a friend or family member that is feeling overwhelmed, please gift them a free Strategy Session with Shellee.

How can you use this time to your advantage?

Use the gift of time to learn (goal all A's = proof)

Trend up = if you had a B, get an A

Look to take initiative

Use this time to work on “what will set you apart”

Get organized and have a plan

Applications are reviewed in context

What you do not want to do:

Let your grades drop

Extend your Spring Break and do nothing

Worry about the unknown

Get caught doing something on Social Media

Call colleges (ask me)

Current Seniors:

*It is ok to celebrate your acceptances!

Colleges will start this Fall
(Accept a college by May1 or June1)
(Room deposit)

If you have not decided what is the best fit college for you,
what can you do?

Current Juniors, Sophomores and Freshman:

Yes, things will change!

This can be a good thing

You have been given the gift of time

Testing = what we do know!

SAT and ACT test dates have been delayed
(hoping for June)

AP exams have a format change and will be online
(will not include end units – only 45 min)

IB exams have been cancelled worldwide

SAT2 – MIT said they are no longer a requirement (trend)

Community Service

Our students have risen to the challenge!

COVID-19 Relief Passion Project – needs your help!

No need to leave your home or meet in person



Puzzle Piece #3 & #4 Show your passion and learn to lead

College Ready

Now what?

Contact your AP teacher and get their suggestions on how to study for the exam (what was not taught in your class)?

Collegeboard.org has a FREE prepping section for the AP subjects

Prep for your AP exams and take them
(remember AP exams can = \$)

What if you have been test prepping – now what?

Keep prepping and create a strategy how often will you prep and when – post for all to see

Take full length practice tests and work on completing every question before you run out of time

Focus on the June test date

Consider test optional colleges as plan B

If you procrastinated and did not take a real test yet, consider test optional colleges or take the test as soon as you can and hope you can self report your scores when you receive them.

Go to fairtest.org to see which colleges are test optional

College Search and Selection for Juniors

Now is a great time to get clear on your
top 3 must haves

At College Ready we have always focused on the
best fit regardless of the name.

Personal best fit: Academically, Financially,
Socially (your high school only looks at academic)

If you do not know where or how to start your college search, we will be offering an online workshop

Day and time will be announced via:

Newsletter – sign up www.collegereadyplan.com

Facebook page – College Ready @ College Ready Plan

Instagram – collegereadyplan

Linkedin – College Ready

Twitter – College Ready @ Go College Ready

Juniors

If you're having trouble putting together a best-fit school list with canceled college visits, you can research schools using our free college admissions platform.

The screenshot displays the 'My College Lists' page on the College Ready platform. The page is organized into three main columns:

- My Application Deadlines:** A list of dates and corresponding institutions, such as 'Fri, November 30, 2018 Regular Decision University of California-Los Angeles'.
- Suggested Colleges:** A list of recommended schools, including 'Alliant International University San Diego, California' and 'American Conservatory Theater San Francisco, California'.
- My List of Colleges:** A list of colleges added to the user's list, such as 'Harvard University Cambridge, Massachusetts' and 'Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute Troy, New York'.

The interface includes a navigation bar at the top with options like 'Dashboard', 'Testing', 'Colleges', 'Application Outline', 'Files', 'Emails', and 'Calendar'. There are also utility icons for 'View Renewed List Colleges', 'Campus Map View', and 'Add College to My List'.

Question:
How is the Coronavirus Impacting High School Activities?

Answer:
Fortunately, there are still things you can do to improve your extracurriculars, even while you're stuck at home.

Can I List Canceled Activities on the Common App?

YES

You can still describe it in your activities list. Simply share what you did to be selected, and explain it was canceled due to the pandemic.

Question:

What is the Impact of Your Extracurriculars?

Answer:

Many admissions offices use what's called the four levels of extracurriculars. In this system, each activity is assigned a level based on how unique or impressive it is. For instance:

Level 1: are extremely rare –like the USA Mathematical Olympiad

Level 2: are still impressive, but a little more common, state-wide recognition or holding a major leadership role.

Level 3: class treasurer or playing in a selective regional band.

Level 4: simply participated, also includes volunteering and a job.

Question:
When should you start working on your College Essay?

Normally, College Ready encourages students to write their essays later in the application cycle, but with standardized tests getting canceled and pushed back, many students are facing very full fall schedules—getting started on your essay now can help ease that burden.

The **Common App prompts were recently released for 2020-2021.** They are the same as last year so there is no reason not to get at least two of your common app essays completed.

Question: I am registered for a test date in June or July. How and when will I know if my test is canceled?

Answer:

Both testing agencies have acknowledged that cancellations may happen too quickly for them to keep the pages up to date.

www.collegeboard.org and ACT.org

Current test date options:

Test Date	Subject Tests Available	Registration Deadline	Late Deadline	Deadline for Changes
June 6, 2020	Yes	May 8, 2020	May 19, 2020 (mailed) & May 27, 2020 (online or phone)	May 27, 2020
August 29, 2020	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
October 3, 2020	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
November 7, 2020	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A
December 5, 2020	Yes	N/A	N/A	N/A

Question: Is there anything proactive I can do to increase the likelihood I will be able to take the test? Should I change test centers? Should I register now for later test dates?

Answer:

It appears that private schools and/or schools in highly populated areas may be more likely to cancel test dates. We are aware of families that are switching test centers accordingly. Of course it is impossible to know which sites will remain open and which will close, but we offer this information for you to consider.

Question:

My test date was canceled, and I don't know when I can reschedule. I had prepared and was ready; now what do I do?

Answer:

We will stay in touch with you regarding any new information that you might need to make plans. Meanwhile, please feel free to contact us for personalized guidance, practice test reservations, and additional materials.

Question:

**What if test date cancellations and other disruptions extend into the college admission application timeline for the class of 2021?
What are colleges likely to do?**

Answer:

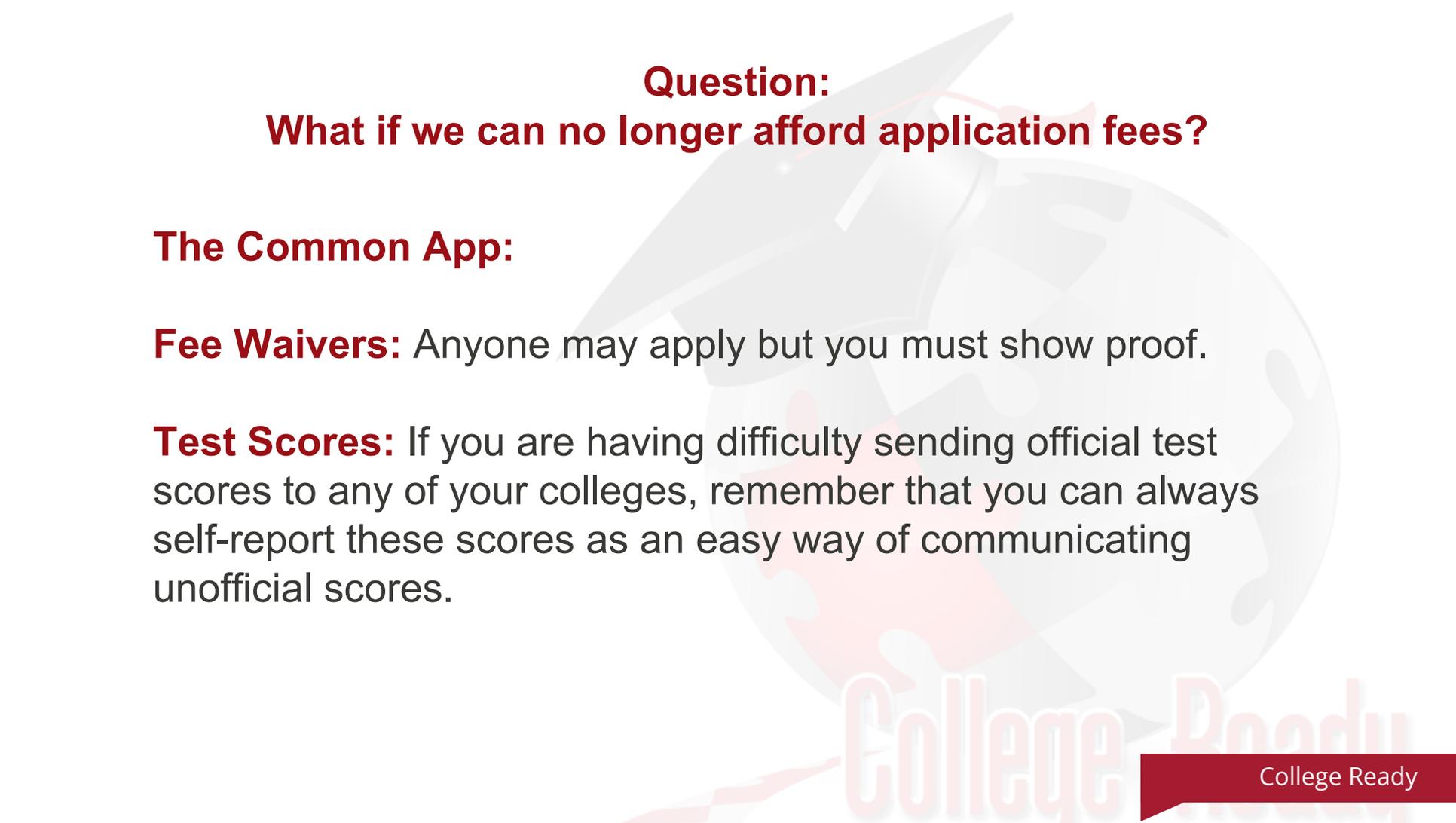
We have heard indications that colleges will be prepared to extend application deadlines or admission test submission deadlines for the class of 2021 as necessary. We may see more colleges take the opportunity to join [the test-optional movement](#)

Question:
How Will Coronavirus Impact Financial Aid?

Answer:

If you receive a financial aid award that your family can no longer afford, contact that college's financial aid office. Colleges will likely take your current financial situation into account. Financial aid offices routinely make adjustments for changes in a family's income.

If your family can't afford the deposit, also let your college know. You may be able to request an extension, or a reduced deposit. Many colleges are already extending their deposit dates to June 1st, and others are expected to follow suit.



Question:
What if we can no longer afford application fees?

The Common App:

Fee Waivers: Anyone may apply but you must show proof.

Test Scores: If you are having difficulty sending official test scores to any of your colleges, remember that you can always self-report these scores as an easy way of communicating unofficial scores.

Book a 30 min. Strategy Session (no cost and no obligation)
We want to help you and your student

You have two choices:

1. You can live in fear and do nothing
or
2. Plan now – minimize fear

Strategy Session

We will discuss YOUR student's strengths/opportunities
and

What they can do now to make a difference!

Go to: www.collegereadyplan.com

1. Click on Strategy Session
2. Pick your day and time
3. See you online

Shellee will personally be on the call with you and your student (spots are limited)

How will colleges remember your student?