**Changes in SAT/ACT Requirements**

Many schools are now completely dropping SAT and ACT requirements as a result of Covid-19. This means that you may not have to take the SAT or ACT, and this won’t affect their decision regarding your acceptance. Please note, this is not the case for all schools and can vary. Find more information on your School's website/ Twitter.

Another resource you can use is this google doc which lists several test-optional schools (make sure to double check using your school’s website): <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1b8044-bU5z8RwTNzIx_R9bPzyG3CKQQEH0_hIj7DfmA/edit>

**Recommendation Letters**

Being that many schools are no longer using SAT scores, recommendation letters hold an even greater importance. Email your teachers as early as possible but preferably not during the first weeks of school–remember that they have a lot of students to get to. The more time allotted for the teacher to write the letter, the more personalized the letter will be. Now is a good time to ask your teachers. Be patient with them though due to the climate. Check in with them again two weeks before your application is due.". Inform your teacher that you'll be using this letter for the Common App. Remember, you should have 2-3 letters of recommendation minimum. Make these letters count by only asking teachers that know you well.

**Financial Liabilities**

Some schools require students to be financially liable for housing even if they have to close. Make sure to properly research your schools. Especially during the pandemic, you should know what you will be paying for.

**Scholarships Available**

If you have not already, now is a good time to begin researching scholarships. Keep in mind that if you get a scholarship from a particular school, it may not be transferable to another school. Scholarships are available for academic achievement, athleticism, and ethnic groups. Scholarships can help pay for your tuition and other costs. If you are trying to avoid taking out student loans then definitely start looking into scholarships.

**Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Decision**

**Early decision** applications are binding - If you apply to a college via Early Decision and you are accepted, you must attend that college. So you should only apply to 1 school via early decision.

Early Decision applications are due November 1st-15th

**Early action** applications are non-binding - Applying to a college via Early Action means that you receive an early response to their application but do not have to commit to the college until the normal reply date of May 1.

Early Action applications are due November 1st-15th

**Regular decision** applications are non-binding - Applying to a college via regular decision means that you will receive a response around the “normal” time.

Regular decision applications are due January 1st-15th.

Good luck (:

Special thank you to Tanya Ansari for the test-optional schools resource.