

Students with Disabilities: Standardized Tests, College Tours, and Applications in the Age of COVID-19

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Tech Check

- Participant audio is muted
- Participant video is off
- The chat box is located at the bottom of the screen where it says “chat”. Please type questions and comments in the chat box. Note that you can direct the question to me, or post to everyone
- Facebook Livestream: put questions in the comments
- Webinar is being recorded
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Agenda

- Introductions
- Standardized Testing Updates & Accommodations
- College Tours
- Questions



Who We Are



Who is Lighthouse Guidance

- Adrienne N. Frumberg, M.A.
- 14 years of experience as college counselor in various independent schools in NYC area
- Expertise in working with students with atypical paths to completing their education, mental health/addictions issues, learning disabilities and special needs
- Master's in Counseling from NYU and Bachelor's in Psychology from Lafayette College



Who is Accessible College

- Annie Tulkin
- 10 years in disability field
- Over 5 years as the Associate Director of the Academic Resource Center at Georgetown University (Georgetown's Disability Support Services Office)
- Fulbright Fellow
- Peace Corps Volunteer
- Masters in Special Education from the University of Wisconsin and Bachelors in Secondary Education from DePaul University.



Standardized Testing & Accommodations

Would you like to know more about College Board and ACT's plans for testing in the coming months?

- So would we!
- The good news is that new information is coming out each day that will bring more clarity to the upcoming dates and changed test administration processes.
- We will talk today about what we *do* know and how the changes will impact students with disabilities.



Upcoming SAT Test Dates



- August 29th, 2020
- September 26th, 2020 (new added test date)
- October 3rd, 2020
- November 7th, 2020
- December 5th, 2020
- March 13th, 2021
- May 8th, 2021
- June 5th, 2021
- SAT Subject tests available on all test dates except for Sept. 26th and March 13th

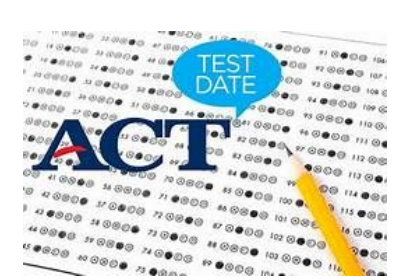
Accommodations for the SAT & ACT

- It can take up to 7 weeks for accommodations to be approved for your student or client's accommodations; speak to the SSD coordinator at your school to complete the application well in advance.
- ACT National vs. Special Testing options
- Easier to implement remotely:
 - Extended time (time and a half)
 - Use of a computer
 - Questions being read aloud
- Use of assistive technology to provide special testing accommodations
 - Voice dictation
 - Screen Readers



ACT Test Dates

- As CDC & local guidelines allow, ACT will offer the following dates:
 - June 13th, 2020 - added June 20th date
 - July 18th, 2020 - added July 25th date
 - September 12th, 2020
 - October 24th, 2020
 - December 12th, 2020
- ACT will be offering an option for Non-Saturday and Special testing for the June 2020 test date.
- By Friday, May 22nd the ACT will announce changes to June ACT test administration, where it will be open and where they will be canceled.



Additional ACT Information

- Will offer remote proctoring in late fall/early winter 2020: Students can then take the test at their home computer; possibly something similar to ProctorU (used for GRE)
- ACT may make decisions on a regional basis, allowing some states to test on regular testing dates in June & July.
- Will be offering new individual section retest option beginning in September for students who want to retake ONE section of the exam. (Only offered in the schools, not at-home)
- You must have already taken the ACT once to do section retesting option!
- Managing expectations of students' testing timeline
- ACT will clarify their “flexible scheduling” policy as June gets closer.

Test-Optional Policies

- Many colleges will be offering a test-optional admissions policy for this admissions cycle; for some, this will be a three-year policy.
- The up to date list of test-optional colleges can be found at www.fairtest.org
- Test optional vs. test-blind
 - The vast majority of test-optional schools still welcome test scores and **value** strong scores in the admissions process.
- Test optional schools see the following benefits to their admissions pool:
 - An increased number of applicants, resulting in a lower (*i.e.*, more selective) acceptance rates.
 - Fewer low-scoring students report their scores, inflating the average test score for admitted students.

College Tours

Virtual Tours

Where to find them:

- College Admissions Websites
- YouVisit
 - WCAG 2.0 compliant (Web Content Accessibility Guidelines)
 - Screen Reader, script, ASL (Gallaudet)
- YouTube
 - Captioning



Virtual Tours Continued...

What you see:

- Campus buildings
- Birds Eye view of campus
- May get to hear from students

What you miss:

- Vibe and feeling on campus
- Accessibility
- Distance between buildings and campus terrain
- Info on disability support, mental health, student health



Other Opportunities to Engage

- Live Student Panels
- Facebook Live Events
- Instagram Live Events

Where to find:

- Follow the college on social media
- College admissions website



Considerations: Students with Disabilities

- Is the campus accessible for me?
- Can I navigate the campus independently?
- Will I be able to receive accommodations that will allow me to be successful?
- Does the campus have a hospital or medical center?
- What are the options for healthcare/mental health care?

Getting The Information You Need

- Contact the Disability Support Office
 - Documentation guidelines
 - Ask questions
 - Get connected with other students with similar disabilities/conditions
 - Review the website and mission statement
- Contact the Counseling Center
 - Ask about services
 - How many times can a student be seen there?
 - Student support groups?
- Contact the Student Health Center
 - Ask about services
 - Local providers
 - Medication



Questions



Questions Submitted with Registration

1. How will students that qualify for special testing (i.e. multi-day testing, MP3 player, etc.) for ACT/SAT take these exams if schools are closed in the fall? ACT says it's planning for at-home testing and College Board is working to make a similar scenario possible but I haven't heard how special testing will play out for in-home computer-based tests?
2. Is it better for students to reach out to the office of disabilities before they submit their application or wait until after? What about contacting admissions representatives before submitting their applications?
3. Do you have a list of questions students should be asking about accommodation / support availability when "visiting" schools?
4. How can we support students with executive functioning challenges in the virtual college search process?
5. What do you foresee as the long term impacts of COVID-19 on the college search process and college transition process for students with disabilities? What resources do school counselors need to prepare to address these possibilities?



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