

## January 2017

### 21<sup>st</sup> – SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests

(register by 12/21 - late  
registration 1/10/17)

Seniors – Search and apply for  
scholarships that match your  
qualifications

Seniors – File any additional  
college applications

## February 2017

### 11<sup>th</sup> – ACT and ACT plus Writing

(register by 1/13 - late  
registration 1/20)

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

## The Big University Experience

Generally, a university is considered large if it has more than 15,000 undergraduates. What are some of the benefits of attending a school that size? There are many things to consider when applying to college, and size is definitely an important factor.

Larger schools are often state-funded, so they can come with a much lower price tag than a small, private school. Because of their size, they are frequently found in more urban settings, which makes for cheaper housing and transportation costs. There are also more housing options than on a small campus, so it may be easier to find the perfect place to live.

Do you want to major in something less popular than Biology or English, like Speech and Language Disorders? Big schools have more degrees and class offerings. This variety can be helpful for those who enter college as Undecided majors, as they can try out many different courses. Since classes are offered at a few different times during the day, students at big schools may have more flexibility when it comes to their schedules, and may also be able to work because of this. Since class sizes and lecture halls tend to be huge, those who like their anonymity may feel more comfortable at large colleges.

A more sizeable undergraduate population also creates a bigger alumni network. This can often bring more funding to the school, which may be partly used to build state-of-the-art facilities. Since large schools are frequently focused on research, they attract excellent teachers who are widely recognized in their field. Because of this, there may be more opportunities to work in research alongside high profile faculty, although graduate students

may get priority for research positions. Not only are the facilities top-notch, but there are more of them: more libraries, more gyms, and multiple dining halls with different meal options. It also means that there are more specialized offices on campus with staff available to help students.

Large universities tend to have a more diverse student body, more clubs, and more extracurricular activities. With so many options, it may be easier to find a group to join, and meeting new people all the time is inevitable. Sports fans may feel more at home in this setting, as bigger schools have more of an emphasis on games, rivalries, and school spirit. For those interested in fraternities and sororities, there is often a stronger focus on Greek life on large campuses.

It is easier to get lost in the crowd on a big campus, so students need to be able to speak up for their needs and interests, and go after the opportunities they desire. Since there can sometimes be less interaction with professors, smaller schools may be better for students who need extra help or motivation to learn. Smaller schools offer more opportunities for leadership roles, because there is less competition for them, and may have more individualized advising available for assistance.

If you are a self-motivated learner who enjoys meeting new people, and you would like to have a variety of experiences, a large university may be ideal.



Ohio State  
University

## Career Paths for Animal Science Majors

- Zookeeper (requires advanced degree)
- Veterinarian (with advanced degree)
- Animal Scientist
- Animal Breeding Technician
- Animal Caretaker
- Research/Laboratory Technician
- Veterinary Assistant
- Habitat Specialist
- Livestock Manager
- Kennel Keeper
- Livestock Inspector
- Wildlife Biologist
- Zoologist (requires advanced degree)
- Quality Control Manager
- Animal Nutritionist
- Animal Researcher
- Conservation Officer
- Public Relations Specialist
- Teacher
- Livestock Marketing Specialist



## Majoring in Animal Science

Animal science majors study the biology, physiology, growth, breeding, nutrition, behavior, and management of animals. They can hold many job titles, in many different fields.

Although working in veterinary medicine requires an advanced degree, this is a popular career path for animal science majors. Veterinarians work in clinics and farms to diagnose and treat animal injuries and illnesses. They also work for companies that make animal foods and pharmaceuticals, to help design products and research how animals respond to certain foods and medicines.

Animal science majors work at all levels of government, from federal to state to local. Federal and State departments of Agriculture, Health, Environmental Protection, and Food and Drug Safety often employ these professionals. They may also work in laboratories to research animal nutrition, health, and disease control, or to inspect livestock operations, and meat and dairy plants.

Positions in education are plentiful for animal science majors at all levels. They work in high schools and colleges, including university extension programs, to teach students about animals and inform the public.

Within the fields of farming and agriculture, animal science majors are employed by farms, ranches, and agricultural businesses as managers and technicians. They may work for livestock producers in quality control, distribution of products, sales, marketing, and customer service. Jobs are available with feedlots, processing plants, breeding companies, food distributors, and even livestock trade publications.

One fast growing field is animal biotechnology, in which animals are used to support research efforts, serve as models for

disease, and provide products to help grow cells, antibodies, and viruses in cultures. Animal science majors work in this industry as research associates, as well as laboratory and veterinary technicians.

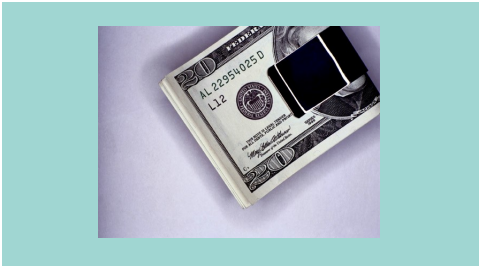
As the world loses more species, wildlife conservation is critical. Animal science majors can continue on to careers as zoologists, wildlife biologists, and conservation officers. These jobs generally require an advanced degree in the form of a Masters or a PhD. The main focus of these careers is to protect and support wild animals. Graduates may be employed to count animal populations, run animal breeding programs, coordinate disease control programs, and research threats to habitats. Jobs are available within state and local agencies, corporate laboratories, animal sanctuaries, universities, and zoos.

Depending on the university, animal science majors often specialize in one area. Some examples of these concentrations include pre-veterinary care, the animal industry, and exotic animals. While individual coursework varies among schools, animal science majors can usually expect to take classes in biology, organic chemistry, and animal physiology. Depending on the specialty, students may also take classes in agriculture, farm management, animal nutrition, or animal behavior. Other classes may include animal care, livestock production, breeding, and animal disease control.

As the human population grows, so does the domestic animal population. This means that job growth is expected in this field in the future. Students who would like to work in wildlife conservation can also expect to see more available jobs. If you have a passion for learning about and caring for animals, an animal science major may be ideal for you.

More information can be found at [www.asas.org](http://www.asas.org), the website for the American Society of Animal Science.

## Financial Matters: Watch Out for Scholarship Scams



Have you ever been invited to a “free scholarship seminar” or received an official-looking letter from a company that “guarantees to find you financial aid or your money back”? If so, you may have been the target of a scholarship scam. Each year, families trying to find money to pay for college expenses fall victim to such scams; estimates of losses each year are in excess of a hundred million dollars.

Scholarship search firms attempt to

attract clients by proclaiming that millions of dollars in college aid goes unclaimed each year. The “unclaimed” scholarships, however, are generally tied up in trusts or through a company’s program for children of employees. Some scholarship money is earmarked for members of a union or organization. This “unclaimed” scholarship money is not available to the general public. Although scholarship search services offer, for a fee, to provide you with lists of sources of financial aid, you can do your own scholarship search on the web for free. Begin your search with sites like [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com) or [collegeboard.com](http://collegeboard.com).

Other scholarship services invite prospective clients to a free seminar. After a general talk, they use high-pressure tactics in a one-on-one meet-

ing to convince families to use their services.

Still other scams claim that you’ve won a scholarship (that you never applied for) and now need to pay a fee for processing. Beware of any scholarship offers that come with a fee attached—you should not need to pay money to be awarded a scholarship. Be especially careful if asked for a credit card or bank account number.

Legitimate companies never guarantee or promise scholarships or grants. If you are not sure if an offer of aid is genuine, check with your college advisor or call the Federal Trade Commission at 877-FTC-HELP. More information is available at their website at [www.consumer.ftc.gov](http://www.consumer.ftc.gov).

## Avoiding That Dread Disease: Senioritis

American seniors sometimes think that because they have worked so hard throughout high school, they have earned the right to slack off senior year, especially in the last few months. By now, mid-year grades are on their way to colleges and students may have already been accepted at their favorite school. Why not kick back and enjoy life? We refer to this syndrome in the United States as “senioritis”.

However, an offer of admission is conditional, and students are expected to maintain their academic performance throughout senior year. Every year, colleges around the country rescind admission offers.

You are admitted to a college based on the information in your application, and if there are any changes, you need to let the college know. If you have dropped a class that was listed on the transcript you submitted to colleges, your application has changed. Colleg-

es receive your final transcript during the summer, and you don’t want to find out in July that you no longer have a place in the freshman class.

It is much better to be honest and explain why you dropped the class or why your grades have gone down. If the drop in academic performance is severe enough to jeopardize your acceptance, admissions officers may be able to advise you on how to salvage your admission.

There’s another reason to keep working hard in school. It makes the transition to college-level work easier. That’s one of the advantages of taking AP courses, which require a high level of commitment throughout senior year in order to prepare for AP exams in May. The anti-slacker curriculum built into AP classes will help you adjust to college coursework more easily.

If you start procrastinating during

senior year, it’s difficult to get back to good study habits when you arrive at college, where there will be lots of distractions and no parents reminding you to finish your history paper before you go out for pizza with your friends.

While you do need to keep your grades up, making sure you have some fun will help you avoid burnout. Just don’t go overboard quite yet. Summer is less than six months away, and you will have plenty of time to play before you go off to college.

It’s not only lower grades that can torpedo an offer of admission. While spray painting the school gym might seem like a fun prank to you and your friends, a disciplinary issue can also mean the end of your college acceptance.

Students who keep senioritis under control will get their reward when they embark on the great adventure of college, in just a few months.



Tutoring - College Counseling  
Test Prep - Study Center

6700 Fallbrook Ave  
Suite 101  
West Hills, CA 91307

818.888.8665

[SynergyAcademics.com](http://SynergyAcademics.com)

[Jennifer@SynergyAcademics.com](mailto:Jennifer@SynergyAcademics.com)

## Need Accommodations for SAT or ACT?

Recently, both the College Board and the ACT announced big changes to their test accommodations policy. Unlike the past, when students seeking accommodations had to pass through a number of hoops, the process has been significantly streamlined for those needing language support or extended time for testing.

Beginning January 1, 2017, the College Board will automatically approve accommodations for nearly all students who currently receive testing accommodations at their school through either an IEP or a 504 Plan (for public school students) or through other plans sanctioned by private schools. These students will generally receive the same type of accommodations for the SAT, Subject Tests, PSAT and AP exams as they do for school-based testing. Granting of accommodations was reduced to a two-question process:

1. Is the requested accommodation in the student's educational plan?
2. Has the student used the accommodations for school-based testing?

A positive response to both questions provides test-takers with the needed accommodations.

In a similar fashion, the ACT announced that it was aligning its policy with that of the ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) and approving accommodations for those students currently receiving them at their home schools. In addition, the ACT announced that students in a designated English Learners Program could apply through their high school counselor to automatically receive testing support for the ACT. The College Board has matched the ACT policy and will also provide support for students enrolled in an English Learners Program.

It is still a bit more cumbersome to apply for accommodations for the ACT. To be eligible, the disability must be diagnosed and documented by a credentialed professional. The disability must impact performance on the ACT and the student must receive and use similar accommodations at school. Students submit required documents along with a request for either *National Extended Time* (students receive time and a half to complete the exam) or *Special Testing* (students require a variety of other accommodations). Detailed instructions for applying for accommodations on the ACT can be found at [www.ACT.org](http://www.ACT.org).