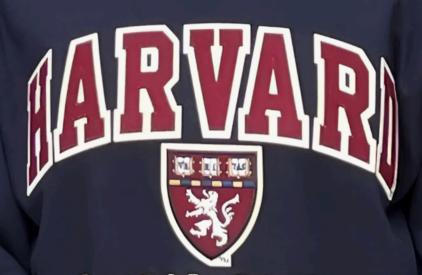




ост 2024

Once A Next Genius Scholar, Always A Next Genius Scholar!

- Exploring the UCAS Application Complexities
- UCAS Bonus Section
- Boost Your Productivity with These Top AI Tools
- Careers Available for Career Counsellors
- Ine Essential Guide to Doing Well in College
- CaseCatalyst: Unlocking Potential, Solving Challenges, Creating Impact
- Industry Leader Spotlight -Devesh Lathi
- ACT vs. SAT: Which One is Right for You?
- 5 Al Skills High Schoolers Should Develop



Featured Articles

Once A Next Genius Scholar, Always A Next Genius Scholar! My Journey With the Next Genius Scholarship Program By Gyana Srivastava	3
Exploring the UCAS Application Complexities How to Manage Deadlines, References, and Personal Statements By Ravisha Maheshwari	7
UCAS Bonus Section Advice from NM Squad for Your UAT-UK Success From Registration to Results: What Every Candidate Should Know	9
Boost Your Productivity with These Top AI Tools Find Out How Advanced Solutions Can Make Work Easier By Bharat Mundra	10
Careers Available for Career Counsellors Challenges and Solutions of Career Decision-Making for Indian Youth By Saurabh Nanda	13
The Essential Guide to Doing Well in College 15 Strategies for Academic, Social, and Personal Growth By Devesh Lathi	15
CaseCatalyst: Unlocking Potential, Solving Challenges, Creating Impact Business Case Competition for High School Students By Khushi Malde	18
Industry Leader Spotlight -Devesh Lathi	20
ACT vs. SAT: Which One is Right for You? 5 Common Mistakes People Make When Deciding By Srinjay Ray	21
5 Al Skills High Schoolers Should Develop How to Stay Ahead in an Al-Driven Future By Tyler Moulton	24

ONCE A NEXT GENIUS SCHOLAR, ALWAYS A NEXT GENIUS SCHOLAR!

My Journey With the Next Genius Scholarship Program

By

Gyana Srivastava MS in Epidemiology Candidate Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health



Gyana Srivastava

I was 11 years old when I first dreamed of studying abroad. I handed a list of colleges to my parents and said, "I'm going to be there one day."

Over time, my childhood dreams were replaced by the realities of financial constraints and average grades, and I began to doubt my ability to study abroad. But the night before the Next Genius Online Assessment, I allowed myself to imagine what life could look like if I won the scholarship. I closed my eyes and visualized my first day at Wheaton College, and felt an overwhelming sense of happiness. Before I knew it, I was

standing on stage accepting a full-tuition scholarship to Wheaton College, MA. It felt like the door to my future had suddenly swung wide open, bringing my once far-off dreams within reach. This scholarship reignited my sense of hope and optimism at the moment when I needed it the most - when I was about to give up on my dreams and conform to the traditional pathways available for my education.

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My story is not unique. I have witnessed many fellow Next Genius applicants win full-tuition scholarships and go on to pursue remarkable careers. Anoushka Agarwal, for instance, pursued Human Computer Interaction at Rice University and now works at Oracle. Next Genius scholars graduate from college with exceptional outcomes and often pursue master's programs at prestigious universities such as Harvard, Yale, and Columbia. Many have also secured positions at world-class organizations like Google, Meta, and KPMG. The impact of this scholarship program extends far beyond financial aid—it opens doors to opportunities that once seemed out of reach and empowers students to dream bigger than they ever thought possible.

The Next Genius scholarship didn't just provide financial support; it instilled a sense of possibility and resilience in me. It taught me to approach obstacles with optimism and to believe that nothing is far from reach if I work hard and dream big. This mindset has been crucial in navigating challenges and opportunities in all aspects of my life.

As I continue my journey in public health, I carry the lessons and values instilled by Next Genius with me. The foundation laid during my time at Wheaton College as a Next Genius scholar—the interdisciplinary thinking, the global perspective, and the drive to make a difference—continues to shape my approach to understanding and addressing complex health issues.

I want to encourage all aspiring students to dream big, work hard, and never underestimate the power of a single opportunity to change the course of their life. My journey with Next Genius has shown me that with determination, support, and a bit of faith, even the most ambitious dreams can become reality.

Once a Next Genius scholar, always a Next Genius scholar!

TESTIMONIAL



Sudarshana Shukla, Ex-School Counselor, The Cathedral & John Connon School, Mumbai

My interactions with Gyana Srivastava were primarily as a Guidance Counsellor at the Cathedral and John Connon School. As part of the ISC class of 2017, I met Gyana once a week during my routine classroom interactions, and found her to be mature with a strong work ethic, especially as a high-schooler. Self-driven and motivated with a goal to explore undergraduate options, within the framework of her academic aspirations and family's financial boundaries set out for higher educational institutions, Gyana engaged in conversations with me to ensure that she had left no leaf unturned in her college search. As a part of my routing interactions I shared Next Genius's Scholarship opportunity with the entire batch, explaining the one of its kind scholarships in India. Gyana took a shot at it and applied for the Next Genius Scholarship and to her very pleasant surprise, she was awarded a full ride scholarship to Wheaton College. After several discussion with her and her family, she took the plunge and attended Wheaton College. Her focus, hard work and drive never left her side, as she proved to be an extremely accomplished young lady.

LEAD ON TO A BRIGHT FUTURE,

Ranked among the nation's top universities by *U.S. News & World Report,* Texas Christian University is a powerful academic community made up of passionate and ethical leaders, all striving to become a force for the greater good.

With a choice of rigorous academic programs in 115 undergraduate areas of study, TCU offers the resources and opportunities of a major university and the intimacy and feel of a small college. Horned Frogs are equipped and empowered to leave a positive imprint on the world, each in his or her own way. TCU enlivens the soul.

13:1 student-to-faculty ratio 86% faculty hold a PhD or terminal degree 99% faculty teach undergraduate classes 9,445 undergraduate students 10,918 student population

27 average class size



LOCATION

Fort Worth, Texas (pop. 874,000), is part of the thriving Dallas/Fort Worth metropolitan area; the nation's fourth largest. The urban city is popular, due in part to its welcoming spirit and moderate climate. DFW International Airport is close by, and Dallas is less than an hour's drive away.

INDEPENDENT

Founded in 1873, TCU is historically related to, but not governed by, the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a Protestant denomination that values social justice and inclusiveness. All values and viewpoints are welcome with more than 60 faith traditions and denominations represented on campus.

FACILITIES

At TCU, you'll discover sparkling new facilities for most academic areas, along with a spacious recreation center and completely renovated sports venues. Similarly, all residence halls are either new or recently renovated. Most upper-class dorms feature suite-style living with full-size beds in private bedrooms, bathrooms and living areas. Wifi covers the entire campus.

The University Union offers multiple food stations and an all-you-can-eat meal plan, so going hungry is not an option. Vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options are available.

When it's time to hit the books, you'll find millions of resources at the campus library (open 24 hours a day during the school week), along with a huge computer lab, coffee shop and comfy chairs.

CAMPUS

Our 291 beautifully-landscaped, tree-lined acres are nestled in a residential neighborhood near parks, museums and shops, and just a few minutes from downtown Fort Worth.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES & ATHLETICS

The Wall Street Journal ranks TCU #3 in the nation for student engagement. More than 200 student groups including community service, leadership development, religious clubs, ROTC, national sororities and fraternities, intramural sports, student media, Phi Beta Kappa and the Honors College keep students busy outside of classes. NCAA Division I athletics competing in the Big 12 Conference make for plenty of school spirit and a contagious sense of pride.

APPLYING TO TCU

While the statistics show that TCU students are far from ordinary, admission to TCU is not a numbers game. We consider the whole picture - grades and scores, yes, but you too: your goals, your potential, your ability to communicate, your leadership and work experience. To apply to TCU, visit admissions.tcu.edu/apply.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

TCU offers merit scholarships to high academic achievers. For need-based financial aid consideration, submit the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE (cssprofile.org). U.S. citizens and permanent residents must also submit the FAFSA (fafsa.gov).

tcu

MISSION: To educate individuals to think and act as ethical leaders and responsible citizens in the global community

Architectural Lighting Design* Art Education Art History Arts Administration* Arts Leadership & Entrepreneurship* Asian Studies* Astronomy Biochemistry Biology Biophysics British & Colonial/Post-Colonial Studies* Business Accounting# · Business Information Systems# · Entrepreneurship and Innovation# • Finance# · Finance/Real Estate# Management and Leadership# Marketing# · Supply and Value Chain Management# Chemistry Child Development Chinese* Cinema & Media Studies Classical Studies* Combined Science **Communication Studies** Comparative Race and Ethnic Studies Computer Information Technology Computer Science Creative Writing* Criminal Justice Cultural Awareness in Health and Healthcare* Dance Data Science* Design of The Built Environment* Digital Culture and Data Analytics* Economics Fducation · Accelerated Masters Program All Level: Early Childhood-12 Early Childhood Education Middle School Education Secondary Education Educational Studies* Energy Management and Technology* Engineering · Electrical Mechanical English Environmental Science Fashion Merchandising Film/Television/Digital Media Food Management French General Business* Geography Geology German Graphic Design Habilitation of the Deaf And Hard of Hearing Health & Fitness Health Communication & Media* Healthy Aging* History Human-Animal Relationships* Interdisciplinary Inquiry

AREAS OF STUDY

Actuarial Science

Applied Geoscience

Anthropology

African American And Africana Studies*

DEADLINES

Freshman Deadlines

November 1	Early Action, non-binding decision by January 1
November 1	Early Decision, binding decision by January 1;
	Enrollment deposit required by January 15
October 1	Application deadline for spring semester
February 1	Regular Decision, non-binding decision by April

Transfer Deadlines

November 1Spring Final DeadlineFebruary 1Fall Early Action DeadlineJune 1Fall Final Deadline



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Interior Design International Economics Italian* Jewish Studies* Journalism Latin American Studies Mathematics Middle East Studies* Movement Science Music • Brass Church Music Music Education • Organ Percussion Piano · Strings • Theory/Composition · Voice • Woodwinds Neuroscience News & Media Studies Nursing Nutrition Philosophy Physical Education Physics Political Science Political Science - International Relations Pre-Health Professions Track · Pre-Dentistry · Pre-Medicine · Pre-Optometry · Pre-Physician Assistant · Pre-Pharmacy · Pre-Podiatry · Pre-Veterinary Pre-Law Track Pre-Major Track Psychology Ranch Management Religion Reserve Officers' Training Corps (U.S. Citizens & Residents) Aerospace Studies (Air Force) Military Science (Army) Social Work Sociology Spanish and Hispanic Studies Spanish for Business Professions* Spanish for the Health Professions* Speech-Language Pathology Sports Broadcasting Strategic Communication Strength & Conditioning Studio Art Sustainability* Theatre Acting • Design Musical Theatre Production · Theatre Studies Urban Studies* Women and Gender Studies Writing Youth Advocacy & Educational Studies

available with Global Business minor * available as minor only

EXPLORING THE UCAS APPLICATION COMPLEXITIES

How to Manage Deadlines, References, and Personal Statements

By Ravisha Maheshwari Research Associate NM Squad



Ravisha Maheshwari

Oxford's UCAS Application

The UCAS application timeline varies slightly each year. The critical deadline is October 15th, specifically for applicants to Oxford, Cambridge, and certain courses like veterinary science, medicine, or nursing. Applications must be submitted by 6 PM UK time on this date. Ideally, students should begin preparing their applications by June. The UCAS application system typically opens in early September, allowing students to start entering their details. Academic references and predicted grades are also required, often provided by schools. UCAS has updated how academic references are structured, now using boxes for school information and student performance, which highlights a student's academic strengths and achievements.

For Oxford, some courses require admission tests or written work, which should be completed in advance and submitted if required. Students should choose a piece of work they are proud of and comfortable discussing, as it may be referenced during interviews. Interviews are crucial, with around 24,000 conducted and 10,000 students shortlisted. Offers, given in mid-January, are conditional upon meeting specific academic requirements. For admissions tests, Pearson VUE handles testing globally. Students must register themselves and address issues via email for a documented record. Test fees apply for tests like the LNAT and UCAT, which help differentiate candidates based on their performance. Finally, students at Oxford must commit to a specific course from the outset, as changing subjects is not permitted. The teaching method, including intensive tutorials and independent study, requires careful consideration to ensure it aligns with students' learning preferences.

UK Degree Structures and Personal Statements

The United Kingdom's education system varies across England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland, impacting degree structures and study options. In England, undergraduate degrees typically last three years, with students focusing on a single subject and limited flexibility to change (unless you're pursuing a "Sandwich" year). Scotland, however, offers a four-year degree structure that allows students to explore multiple subjects, offering more flexibility and the opportunity to integrate a year in industry or an integrated master's. This system is beneficial for students seeking the option to try different subjects before finalizing their major.

When applying to UK universities through UCAS, the personal statement is a critical element, especially for institutions that do not require additional tests or interviews. Rather than serving as a CV, it must demonstrate the student's journey, motivation, and interest in the specific course. Evidence of engagement with the subject, such as relevant experiences or future plans, is essential. If applying for a joint degree, students should connect both subjects and ensure both are adequately represented in their statement.

The personal statement should be reflective and focus on the subject area, as it will be used for all five university applications. Next year's upcoming changes will shift the format to three shorter answers, addressing why the student wants to study the subject, how their qualifications have prepared them, and their extracurricular preparation. The reference should highlight unique aspects of the student's academic journey and strengths, particularly if the curriculum differs from standard ones. Providing context and relevance in both the personal statement and reference is crucial for presenting a comprehensive application.

How Counselors Can Support Oxbridge Applicants

There are key strategies to effectively support students deciding to apply to Oxbridge in their senior year. First, engage them in reflective super-curricular activities to assess their learning outside the classroom. Evaluate their understanding of the college system and Oxbridge's teaching methods. Strengthen their application by reviewing the academic reference and considering alternative UK universities if their predicted results are not competitive. Encourage extensive reading and reflection on extracurricular achievements, such as Olympiads. Assess their knowledge of Oxbridge-specific courses and prepare them for intensive reading and study.

For Oxbridge interview preparation, assign each student a subject expert, typically a teacher, to provide focused guidance. Utilize your network to organize mock interviews with different interviewers, reflecting the varied experiences at Oxbridge. Ensure students complete two MOOCs relevant to their field of study and are well-versed in all articles and books mentioned in their personal statements. Highlight the importance of analytical responses over mere narrative summaries during interviews. Additionally, be mindful of potential fee discrepancies for British students residing in Europe post-Brexit, as some universities may classify them as international students, resulting in higher tuition fees. Discuss these financial implications with students and parents to identify more affordable options.

Differentiating ECAs and Super-Curricular

In Grade 9, introduce students to the difference between Extracurricular Activities (ECAs) and Super-Curricular. Use a tracker for ECAs where students log their school and community activities, work experience, and volunteering, including roles, responsibilities, and impacts. This helps identify trends in their interests and guide future activities. For Super-Curricular, maintain a reflective log documenting what students have learned outside the classroom, such as through reading or independent study.

In Grade 10, initiate a profile reflection activity where students showcase their leadership achievements and how their ECAs and Super-Curricular influence their values and subject interests. Utilize UCAS tools like Virtual Open Days, The Careers Quiz, Subject Tasters, Virtual Work Experience, and Industry Guides to help students explore potential fits for their interests. Encourage them to reflect on their authentic experiences and align their activities with their true interests, fostering genuine engagement and differentiation in their applications.

UCAS BONUS SECTION

Advice from NM Squad for Your UAT-UK Success

From Registration to Results: What Every Candidate Should Know

The University Admissions Tests in the UK (UAT-UK) are an important part of the application process for many competitive universities. For students applying to programmes that require tests like the ESAT or TMUA, understanding the details around registration, preparation, and results can be crucial. Here are some key pieces of advice from NM Squad to help students navigate the process effectively:

No Need to Provide Your UCAS Personal ID (PID)

When registering for a UAT-UK account or booking your test, you do not need to provide your UCAS PID. UAT-UK and Pearson VUE coordinate with UCAS to match your test scores to the correct application using other data from the test booking. This method ensures that your scores will automatically be shared with the relevant institutions without requiring further steps.

UCAS Application Timing

You do not need to submit your UCAS application before taking your test. UAT-UK performs multiple datamatching exercises throughout the year. If your test score is not initially matched to an application, it will be paired during subsequent matches once your UCAS application is submitted.

Special Note for Cambridge Applicants

If you are applying to the University of Cambridge, you must meet the 15 October UCAS application deadline and take the test in October 2024. Note that bookings for the October sitting are now closed.

Rough Work Materials Provided at Test Centres

Candidates are given an erasable A4-size whiteboard for rough work during the exam. Ensure you make use of this for any necessary calculations or notes during the test.

Accessing Test Results

Test results will be available around six weeks after the exam. You will receive an email notification once they are ready, and you can view your results through your UAT-UK account.

Understanding Your Scores

Scores are reported on a 1.0-9.0 scale, with raw scores not disclosed. An explanation of results document, available on the UAT-UK website when results are released, will help contextualise your score. Each university may have different policies on how they use these test scores in conjunction with other application materials, such as predicted grades and personal statements.

Options for Candidates Who Missed the October Deadline

If you missed the October 2024 deadline, you can still sit for the test in January 2025, especially if you are applying to institutions like Imperial College London, LSE, Durham, or Warwick. There is no disadvantage in taking the test in January instead of October, and bookings for the January sitting open on 24 October 2024.

Preparing for the Test

The content of the ESAT and TMUA typically includes topics covered during your school studies. Utilise the test specification documents available on the UAT-UK website to familiarise yourself with the test structure and content. Practice tests are also highly recommended to help you prepare and improve your test-taking skills.

Aiyyo 🖉

BOOST YOUR PRODUCTIVITY WITH THESE TOP AI TOOLS

Find Out How Advanced Solutions Can Make Work Easier

By Bharat Mundra Director IBOS



Bharat Mundra

intelligence:

1. Claude

<u>Claude</u> by Anthropic is an AI assistant using large language models (LLMs) and transformer networks. It applies *Constitutional AI*, Anthropic's approach embedding ethical principles into the AI's framework, ensuring safe and reliable interactions. Claude excels in natural language processing, context management, and multi-turn dialogue. It is a valuable resource for writers, developers, and researchers.

In the rapidly evolving digital world, artificial intelligence (AI) tools have become crucial for boosting productivity, simplifying workflows, and sparking creativity. Whether it's generating text, improving images, or organizing content, AI provides automation and insights that can significantly strengthen your work processes. Here is a list of nine influential AI platforms crafted to elevate your work efficiency and

2. Perplexity

<u>Perplexity AI</u>, launched in 2022, is an AI-powered research and conversational search engine. It answers queries with natural language predictive text, sourcing information from the web and citing links within its responses. Whether you need data for a report, blog, or research paper, Perplexity ensures rapid and reliable information retrieval.

3. Feedly

<u>Feedly AI</u> is an AI-powered research assistant that uses machine learning and NLP to filter relevant insights, automate content aggregation, and summarize data. It supports custom Mute Filters, Leo Web Alerts, and AI Feeds, helping users with threat intelligence, market research, and competitive analysis.

4. MyMind

<u>MyMind</u> uses AI to organize and categorize all your notes, bookmarks, inspiration, articles, and images in one private place. It allows for quick retrieval by searching based on colour, keyword, brand, or date—whatever you think of first. It's an ideal choice for designers, writers, researchers, developers, and visual thinkers.

5. Leonardo

<u>Leonardo AI</u> uses advanced artificial intelligence to help users generate high-quality art, images, and videos. As a comprehensive digital artist, it simplifies and enhances the creative process with sophisticated algorithms, making it ideal for professionals and amateurs in marketing, graphic design, and photography.

Aiyyo 🔒

6. Topaz Labs

<u>Topaz Labs</u> specializes in advanced Al-driven software for image and video enhancement. Their suite includes tools for noise reduction, sharpening, upscaling, and object removal, leveraging machine learning algorithms to deliver high-quality results. Key products include Photo AlTM for comprehensive photo enhancements, Video Al Pro for professional video improvements, and Gigapixel Pro for substantial image upscaling with enhanced processing speed and CLI support.

7. Suno

<u>Suno</u> is a generative AI music creation tool designed to produce realistic songs with both vocals and instrumentation or purely instrumental tracks. It generates music based on user-provided text prompts. While Suno does not disclose its training dataset, it asserts that its AI is protected against plagiarism and copyright issues.

8. Otter

<u>Otter</u> is an AI transcription service that records and summarizes presentations, making it perfect for capturing key points from meetings, conferences, and interviews. It provides live captions for speakers and generates written transcriptions of spoken content, ensuring that important details are preserved and easily accessible for future reference.

9. Spotter Studio

<u>Spotter Studio</u> is designed for YouTube creators to brainstorm, research, and plan in one place. It offers personalized experiences based on channel and style, currently available only for creators with a YouTube channel, at least one public video over one minute, and content in English. Spotter Studio helps creators optimize video creation and organization to engage audiences effectively.

Transform Work Processes with AI

Incorporating AI platforms like Claude, Perplexity, Feedly, MyMind, Leonardo, Topaz Labs, Suno, Otter, and Spotter Studio can significantly boost your productivity and creative output. These tools automate repetitive tasks, curate relevant information, enhance visuals, and streamline audio and video production. Embracing AI tools is now essential for staying competitive and achieving success. As technology evolves, these AI-driven solutions will continue to unlock new possibilities for innovation, creativity, and growth.

FULL SCHOLARSHIP FOR HIGH-PERFORMING, MIDDLE-INCOME STUDENTS



The Next Genius Scholarship Program • Since 2014 •

Since 2014 •

The Next Genius Scholarship Program connects Grade 12 students with full scholarships to pursue an **undergraduate** education at world class colleges in the US & Europe. Since 2014, over 300 students have won our scholarships. This year, we will award 200+ scholarships to students from Bangladesh, India & Nepal.

Next Genius Scholars graduate from college with exceptional outcomes & often pursue master's programs at prestigious universities like **Harvard, Yale & Columbia** or work at companies like **Google Meta & KPMG**. Visit next-genius.com to learn more.



next-genius.com

CAREERS AVAILABLE FOR CAREER COUNSELLORS

Challenges and Solutions of Career Decision-Making for Indian Youth

Saurabh Nanda Director and FounderDirector and Founder SN Mentoring



By

Career decision-making is a significant challenge for students and young professionals in India. The combination of limited career awareness, a changing job market, and insufficient guidance has left many young people struggling to make informed choices. This article explores the scale of the problem and the steps needed to address it.

Saurabh Nanda

The Awareness and Employability Crisis

A major challenge for young people is the lack of awareness about career options. The *India Skills Report 2018* found that 85% of students in higher education feel uninformed about career choices, and a Mindler survey revealed that 93% know only seven career paths, despite over 250 being available in India. This limited knowledge impacts employability, as *Aspiring Minds' Annual Employability Survey 2019* showed 80% of Indian engineers are unprepared for knowledge economy jobs, with only 2.5% possessing essential AI skills. Employers must invest in re-skilling, raising the cost of producing an employable workforce.

Automation and Reduced Job Opportunities

Recent trends show a decline in job opportunities in traditional sectors such as IT and management, which were once seen as stable career paths. Increased automation in the services sector has led to fewer job openings, particularly in roles that require repetitive tasks. This further complicates career decision-making for students, as previously reliable job markets are shrinking. Consequently, career paths now demand a more diverse skill set that includes not only technical knowledge but also adaptability and problem-solving abilities.

Early Career Guidance for Better Outcomes

One of the most effective ways to address these challenges is through early intervention in career guidance. By identifying students' aptitudes in grades 9 and 10, schools can provide tailored mentoring that aligns with their strengths and interests. This early career counselling helps reduce the herd mentality, where students follow popular career choices without considering their own skills and passions. Early guidance not only improves employability but also encourages students to explore a wider range of career options beyond the limited paths they are typically exposed to.

Government Initiatives and the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

Recognizing the need for improved career guidance, the Government of India has allocated Rs 1.48 lakh crore for education, employment, and skills in the 2024-25 fiscal year. A significant focus of this initiative is on hiring 7,000 career counsellors across the country to ensure that students receive the guidance they need.



The National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020) also emphasizes the importance of career counselling. Clause 12.4 mandates that professional academic and career counselling be available to all students, with a focus on emotional, psychological, and physical well-being. Clause 6.19 promotes inclusion and equity within the school system. Additionally, under clause 2.4.12 of the CBSE Affiliation ByeLaws, schools must appoint full-time or part-time career counsellors based on enrolment numbers, ensuring that students have access to expert guidance.

The Role of Psychometric Tools and Mentorship

Career counselling should be tailored to each student's strengths and goals, with psychometric tools providing an evidence-based method to assess interests and skills. These tools enable counsellors to offer precise guidance, helping students choose career paths that align with their abilities. However, effective career counselling goes beyond assessments; it requires continuous mentorship. Students need ongoing support to navigate academic choices, standardized tests, extracurricular activities, and other key milestones. Combining psychometric tools with structured mentorship significantly enhances career outcomes, offering guidance throughout the student's journey.

Training Career Counsellors and Certification

Becoming a qualified career counsellor requires specialized training and certification. The right certification program should equip counsellors with knowledge in three critical areas:

- **Technical Knowledge:** Understanding psychometrics, career decision-making, and counselling techniques.
- **Client Management Skills:** Managing clients effectively, integrating technology, and staying up-todate on educational and career pathways.
- **Business Development:** Counsellors should learn how to set up a practice, build partnerships, and provide a range of services to different client segments, including individuals, businesses, and government entities.

A strong certification program should also offer a support network to help counsellors handle complex client issues and continue their professional development. Continuous learning is essential in a field as dynamic as career counselling, where the challenges faced by students are ever-evolving.

There are four main types of counsellors in India:

1. Guidance Counsellors: Focus on general academic and personal challenges.

2. Career Counsellors: Specialize in helping students align their skills and interests with career opportunities.

- 3. Education Counsellors: Provide advice on academic pathways and higher education options.
- 4. Sales Counsellors: Work in educational institutions to recruit students for specific programs.

While India has many education and sales counsellors, there is a shortage of career and guidance counsellors, making it essential to address this gap through better training and recruitment.

THE ESSENTIAL GUIDE TO DOING WELL IN COLLEGE

15 Strategies for Academic, Social, and Personal Growth

By

Devesh Lathi Senior Vice President Business Development The Next Genius Scholarship Program



Starting your academic journey in a new country can be both exciting and overwhelming. Whether it's mastering time management or building a vibrant social circle, the transition comes with its own set of challenges. But don't worry – with the right tools and strategies, you can thrive in all aspects of your life. From acing your studies to forging meaningful friendships, these tips will help you excel academically, socially, and personally.

Devesh Lathi

1 Building College Connections

Stepping out of your comfort zone in college can be tough, but building strong relationships with fellow students is essential for your well-being. Join clubs, attend events, and actively socialize. You never know how these connections could positively shape your college experience.

2. Preparing for Adventure Abroad

Before studying abroad, learn about the local culture, language, and practical aspects like transportation and food. Attend events, meet locals, and explore your surroundings to immerse yourself. Staying openminded and proactive will make your experience more rewarding.

3. Mastering Your Budget

Managing your finances is key in college. Create a monthly and weekly spending plan and track your expenses closely. This helps you identify areas where you can cut costs or indulge a little. Use budgeting apps or simple notebooks to stay organized, and regularly review your finances.

4. Unlocking Library Resources

College libraries provide a wealth of physical and digital resources. Learn the library system early, as many are connected to larger networks for borrowing. Mastering these tools can greatly boost your academic success.

5. Prioritizing Your Health

Prioritizing your health is crucial, especially when living alone abroad. Focus on regular checkups, balanced nutrition, exercise, and adequate rest. This will keep you energized and ready to handle health challenges, helping you fully enjoy your time at college.

6. Finding Meaningful Activities

Pursue activities you're passionate about, even if they're not related to your studies. Whether it's a sport, hobby, or part-time job, engaging in meaningful activities enhances your college experience and wellbeing. Focus on one and excel in it throughout your college years.

7. Importance of Professor Relationships

Building strong relationships with professors is crucial for academic and professional growth. A mentor can offer advice, job recommendations, and career connections. Developing these connections early can open doors and shape your future.

8. Explore College Opportunities

Colleges offer unique programs and resources beyond your major. Explore various departments and initiatives, such as entrepreneurship programs or study abroad options, to gain skills that enhance your career prospects and make you a well-rounded candidate.

9. Choosing Friends Wisely

The friends you surround yourself with in college influence your personal development. Be selective, as these relationships shape who you become. Surround yourself with motivated, positive individuals who inspire you to grow and make the most of your college years.

10. The Power of Asking for Help

Don't hesitate to seek help for academic support or personal challenges. Asking for assistance is a sign of strength and a proactive way to achieve your goals. Reaching out can greatly enhance your college experience and performance.

11. Focused Club Involvement

Instead of joining many clubs, focus on a few that match your interests. Take on leadership roles to build skills and make significant connections. This approach will boost your college experience and provide strong talking points for future interviews.

12. Optimizing Summer Break

Make the most of your summer break by pursuing activities that enhance your resume, such as internships, research, or volunteering. Use this time for real-world experience related to your career goals to gain a competitive edge in the job market.

13. Networking On LinkedIn

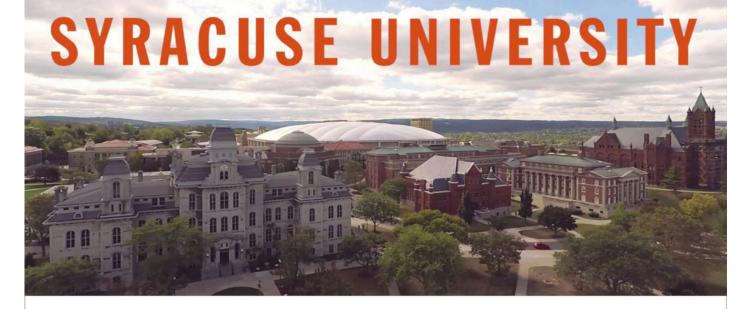
Building a strong professional network is crucial, and LinkedIn is ideal for this. Connect with everyone you meet, from alumni to guest speakers, to expand your network. An active LinkedIn presence can open doors to internships, job opportunities, and future collaborations.

14. Emergency SOS Person

Having a designated emergency contact while studying abroad is essential for your safety. Choose a trusted local person and keep them informed about your whereabouts. They can offer immediate support in emergencies, providing peace of mind for you and your family.

15. Leadership Outside Academics

Engaging in leadership roles outside the classroom, like student government or campus organizations, is an excellent way to develop leadership skills. These experiences can set you apart in front of future employers and elevate your resume beyond academic achievements.



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Most Innovative Schools 2023 U.S. News & World Report

Applying for Admission

Syracuse University uses the Common Application and Coalition Application, powered by Scoir. Youll apply directly to one of the Universitys schools and colleges or to a dual/combined program within two colleges.

Application Deadlines*

- > Early Decision: November 15
- > Early Decision II: January 5
- > Regular Decision: January 5
- Spring Admission (first-year or transfer): November 15
- > Transfer Admission (fall): July 1

*These are the priority deadlines; however, applications will continue to be accepted on a space-available basis.

Your application is evaluated based on:

- > Academic performance and standardized test scores (if applicable)*
- > Personal essay
- > Recommendations
- > Audition or portfolio (for select programs)

*SAT/ACT scores are not required for students applying for Fall 2024 or Spring 2025 admission.

For more information, visit syracuse.edu/admissions/apply.



CASECATALYST: UNLOCKING POTENTIAL, SOLVING CHALLENGES, CREATING IMPACT

Business Case Competition for High School Students

By Khushi Malde Co-Founder CaseCatalyst



What is CaseCatalyst?

CaseCatalyst is an innovative platform founded by students from Stanford and UChicago, designed to give high school students a unique opportunity to tackle realworld challenges faced by startups. Over the course of four weeks, participants work on cases created in collaboration with our partner startups, competing to develop the best solutions. This hands-on experience provides students with invaluable insights into business and entrepreneurship.

Khushi Malde

Participants receive mentorship from top university students, including those from Stanford, UC Berkeley, UChicago, Harvard, and UPenn, as well as seasoned industry professionals and consultants from leading firms like Bain, McKinsey, and BCG. A key highlight of the competition is that the winners will not only receive recognition but also the chance to implement their solutions and intern with the startups, gaining real-world experience.

This virtual competition welcomes students from all over the world, creating a diverse, inclusive, and collaborative learning environment. CaseCatalyst is more than just a competition—it's a platform for shaping future business leaders equipped to thrive in a global economy.

Who is it for?

CaseCatalyst is designed for high school students from around the world who are eager to develop business and problem-solving skills. Participants can join individually or in teams of 3-4 members, and no prior experience is required—just a passion for learning and innovation.

How will participants benefit?

- Learn Business & Entrepreneurship Fundamentals: Through interactive workshops, students will learn essential business skills that will benefit them in both academic and professional settings.
- Mentorship: Work closely with mentors from top-tier universities and leading consulting firms, receiving expert guidance throughout the competition.
- Global Impact: This year's case is based on a healthtech startup in Rwanda, allowing students to contribute to real-world innovation in an emerging market.
- Skill Development: Build critical thinking, problem-solving, analytical, research, and presentation skills that are key to success in both higher education and the workforce.
- Exclusive Internship Opportunities: Winners will be able to implement their solutions through internships with the startup, gaining hands-on experience in a professional setting.
- Certificates & Recognition: All participants will receive certificates, and the winning team will be spotlighted in the media.

Logistics & Application Details

The 2024 CaseCatalyst competition launches on November 15, 2024. High school students can apply individually or as part of a team of 3-4. This year, participants will tackle a case from a fast-growing healthtech company in Rwanda.

Key Dates & Deadlines



Top five teams will have the opportunity to present their solutions to a panel of judges. Apply today using this link: <u>https://bit.ly/casecatalyst2024</u>.

How to Highlight CaseCatalyst in Your College Application

CaseCatalyst offers multiple ways to enhance your college application:

- Activity Section: List this competition as a major extracurricular activity, showcasing your teamwork, innovation, and business skills.
- **Supplemental Materials**: Students will submit a 2-page report, a 3-5 minute video, and a presentation as part of the competition. These can be included as supplemental materials in your application to highlight your work.
- **Recommendation Letters**: Finalist teams can request a recommendation letter from their mentor or case coach (consultants and top university students). Winning teams will also receive a recommendation letter from the startup where they interned.
- **Professional Experience**: If you win, you can list the internship experience as part of your professional background in your application.
- **Essay Material**: CaseCatalyst provides rich content for personal essays, especially for students interested in business, social impact, or global development.

Highlight your participation in a way that aligns with your personal story and goals for college. The flexibility of this competition allows you to emphasize the aspects most relevant to your journey.



Industry Leader SPOTLIGHT



In this section, Aiyyo brings you insights from counseling trailblazers who have made a significant impact with their work. Through candid interviews, we explore their journeys, passions, and personal philosophies. This month, we sit down with Devesh Lathi , from The Next Genius Scholarship Program located in Mumbai, to uncover what drives his success, how he balances the demands of work and life, and the mantra that keeps him moving forward.

What was your college degree? B. Tech in Bioinformatics

Your Favorite Book: The Fountainhead by Ayn Rand

Your Comfort Food: Chole Bhature

A School/College you really enjoyed visiting: Beloit College, Wisconsin

What's on top of your bucket list? Visiting the Sequoia National Forest in California

One thing you would most like to change about the world:

More gratitude being expressed by people.

If you could give one piece of advice to your high school self, what would it be?

I'd tell myself to look beyond the traditional IITs and NITs and research more colleges early on.

What inspired you to do what you do?

I aim to provide the support and guidance to 17-year-olds that I wish I had at their age.

A secret to balancing work & life:

It's simple—sometimes work needs you more, sometimes home does. Prioritize accordingly.

Your Life Mantra:

"Everything is here to help you." [borrowed from 101 Essays That Will Change The Way You Think by Brianna Wiest]

ACT VS. SAT: WHICH ONE IS RIGHT FOR YOU?

5 Common Mistakes People Make When Deciding

By Srinjay Ray Director Tutela Education Pvt Ltd.



Srinjay Ray

Introduction

Choosing between the SAT and ACT is one of the big decisions high school students face while building their profile for College Admissions. Both exams are accepted by most colleges, but they differ in structure, timing, and emphasis on skills. Moreover, recent changes to the ACT Exam have added more flexibility and options for students, making the decision-making process even more nuanced. Unfortunately, many students make crucial errors when deciding which test to take, often resulting in unnecessary stress and suboptimal scores. In this article, we'll discuss five common mistakes students make and how to avoid them.

1. Not Considering Personal Strengths

Many students make the mistake of choosing a test based on peer advice without considering their individual strengths and the differences in test formats. Data shows that 36% of students pick a test without analyzing how the structure aligns with their abilities, often resulting in underperformance. In fact, 48% of students later regret their choice when they realize their learning style suited the other exam better.

Both the SAT and ACT are designed differently. Starting in 2025, the ACT will be shorter (131 questions in 175 minutes) compared to the SAT (154 questions in 180 minutes), with the ACT offering an optional science section that benefits those strong in data interpretation. A survey reveals that 30% of students prefer the SAT for its relaxed pacing, while 25% favor the ACT for its quicker pace.

To avoid this mistake, students should focus on diagnostic tests to understand which exam format plays to their strengths, especially with recent ACT changes like fewer questions and more flexible testing options.

2. Underestimating the Importance of Practice Tests

Many students make the mistake of thinking that one type of practice test works for both the SAT and ACT, but they require different approaches. The new digital SAT has an adaptive format, so students need to practice with adaptive, timed tests to manage varying question difficulty and shorter exam time. Meanwhile, the ACT demands fast pacing and endurance across sections. Practicing ACT timing and subject transitions is key. Relying on generic practice won't prepare students for the specific demands of each test.

3. Not Considering College Preferences

A common mistake students make is neglecting to research the testing preferences of their target colleges. While 80% of U.S. colleges accept both the SAT and ACT equally, some institutions have a historical inclination toward one test. For example, universities like the University of Chicago in the Midwest have traditionally favored the ACT, whereas many East Coast schools lean toward the SAT. Although these preferences are becoming less rigid, some colleges still have testing policies that can impact a student's decision. Understanding these nuances is essential for making an informed choice.

- According to a 2023 survey by U.S. News, 32% of students reported that they do not research college's testing policies before choosing their exam, which could impact the effectiveness of their application.
- A review of SAT super scoring policies showed that nearly 80% of top-tier universities allow super scoring for the SAT, while only 65% accept ACT super scores. This could be a deciding factor for students targeting specific universities.

4. Overlooking Test Dates and Application Deadlines

Aligning test dates with university application deadlines and school workloads is very important for students. Many students end up rushing to take the test in their senior year, which often leaves little room for retakes and results in unnecessary stress.

Data shows that 30% of students who take the SAT/ACT for the first time in their senior year end up
retaking it, often because they didn't allow enough time to improve their scores. This can affect
college applications, especially with the ACT's new super scoring option, where students might want
multiple test attempts to get their best possible score.

Ideally, students should take their first SAT or ACT by the end of junior year. This leaves time for retakes if necessary, without compromising application deadlines. The ACT's recent flexibility, including the superscoring option, can be a strategic advantage if planned early.

5. Not Preparing Strategically

Finally, failing to prepare strategically is perhaps the most critical mistake. With recent changes to both tests, students need to understand the updated formats and prepare accordingly.

- Research by ACT.org shows that students who put in 20+ hours of focused prep improve their scores significantly. In fact, ACT test-takers who practice specific timing strategies, especially given the shortened length of the test, see a 2-3 point increase on their overall score.
- The SAT's new digital format and the ACT's updated structure both require focused preparation on their unique aspects. It's not enough to rely on general knowledge; students need to tailor their preparation based on the specific test they choose.

Students should use strategic prep methods tailored to each test. Whether through online prep tools, practice exams, or tutoring, ensure your preparation targets the updated format of each test.

In conclusion, navigating the decision between the SAT and ACT requires thoughtful consideration and strategic planning. Investing time in diagnostic assessments, understanding college testing policies, and employing targeted preparation strategies will not only alleviate stress but also empower students to achieve their best possible scores. Ultimately, this decision is not just about selecting a test; it's about taking a proactive step toward a successful future in higher education. With the right approach, students can confidently choose the exam that aligns with their strengths and aspirations, setting themselves on a path to academic success and personal fulfillment.

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06

Classes

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Our Prodigies...



04

Rahil Patel American Embassy School	36/36
Kian Nagpal Vasant Valley School	36/36
Diya Roongta The Shri Ram School, Moulsari	36/36
Aditya Arora Heritage International Xperiential School	36/36
Rohit Datta Calcutta International School	36/36

SAT

Pranet Khetan	1600/1600
Romir Kumar The Shri Ram School, Moulsari	1600/1600
Aaraynaa Lohia Nord Anglia International School,	1590/1600 Dubai
Param Davda Dhirubhai Ambani International S	1590/1600
Pragun Sharma Shri Ram School, Aravali	1590/1600



Sresht Bodapati AP Calculus BC, AP Physics 1, AP Chemistry, AP Physics C: E&M, AP Physics C: Mechanics Scottish High International School	5/5
Shivansh Gupta AP Calculus BC, AP Chemistry Delhi Public school	5/5
Arnav Arora AP Physics C Mechanics, AP Computer Science The Heritage School	5/5 ◎ A



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5 AI SKILLS HIGH SCHOOLERS SHOULD DEVELOP

How to Stay Ahead in an Al-Driven Future

By Tyler Moulton Head of Partnerships and Publications Veritas Al



For a lot of us educators, we grew up perceiving artificial intelligence as less science, and more science fiction. Before my current work leading our academic support team at Veritas AI, an AI program for advanced high schoolers, I came to AI a little over seven years ago through research I conducted at the University of Cambridge. Working with a senior astrophysics researcher, I coded simple AI models, and even just those seven short years ago, the larger world of AI felt so disconnected from the specific work I was doing. And that's how many AI scientists felt for a long time!

ChatGPT, and the popularization of GPT-3/4 in the past 5 years, has changed everything. I think this boom in generative AI has done two key things for the AI world: (1) it has made it clear how much promise AI has not just for analysis but for creation or "generation," and (2) it has also made it clear how accessible AI can be. Low-code to no-code AI, or AI that requires very little coding, allows everyone, including our youth and our students, to access AI!

With all this information in hand and with the world of AI at our student's fingertips, this article aims to highlight the AI skills that all students should start building NOW as they look to level up their own academic and professional skill building. Take it from me, the academic director of a high school AI program where I see students day in and day out leverage AI to drive innovation (including projects that blow my undergraduate work under the water!)

1. Learning what AI Chatbots and other generative models are out there (in other words, there's more than just ChatGPT!)

Chatbots like ChatGPT are phenomenal for allowing students to use simple language prompts, similar to how they would use Google (which also uses AI!), to make searches and brainstorm for content generation.

Language generation does not even start and end with ChatGPT, and you can find specialized Chatbots dedicated to particular areas and applications of language generation. For example, if students are for video generation, they can use softwares like Sora and VideoLeap.

2. Using smart prompt engineering to leverage AI Chatbots like ChatGPT effectively

What good is knowing that Chatbots exist if your student doesn't know how to really harness their power? This is where prompt engineering comes in!

Prompt engineering is a term that came into public consciousness recently, and it means exactly what it is titled: by configuring or smartly "engineering" the prompt someone is giving a Chatbot, they can better drive the results they are looking for! Chatbots can and often do make mistakes, and we can use prompt engineering to fact-check our Chatbots and drive (more) correct outputs.

3. Learning to leverage AI alongside other technology you've already mastered

When a lot of us think of AI and our mind jumps to ChatGPT, we are doing so because we think of AI as separate or specialized software. That is, we often think that AI tools are ONLY AI tools, and that they exist separately from other technology.

The reality is that most of the popular low-code tools many of us know, like Google Sheets and Excel, have recently been innovated so that students can use tools like ChatGPT with them! This lesson is also one that every student at Veritas AI relates to! Most students come to Veritas with background knowledge in coding or software applications, but no experience with AI. With a basic technical background, any student can extend their coding and software application skills towards building an AI skillset.

4. Learning to leverage AI to automate your scheduling and daily tasks (alternatively titled: embracing the non-violent Terminator in you!)

Al is more than just content generation and data analysis, and there exist so many Al tools to help students get daily tasks done. Al is all about automating human reasoning and thinking, after all! Even something like organizing a busy academic extracurricular schedule is something students can do more easily with Al. Motion is an Al tool that enables students to manage their different projects and activities with automated Al scheduling.

5. Leveraging AI ethically (yeah, yeah, I know all of us educators hear this all the time, but it is so very important!)

On its face, using AI ethically might not sound like a skill, but it really is. Many students have made the mistake of thinking that they can use ChatGPT to write an academic assignment or their college admissions essay, and have been shocked to learn that doing so is in every sense plagiarism.

Learning the ethical boundaries of how to operate and use AI are essential to set students up for success. AI is certainly the future, but we all have a responsibility to ensure we're committing to a future that's ethical for us and the students of future generations. That means that when we use AI, we need to do it with our ethics firm and our values in hand... or more accurately, in our fingertips as we engineer our next prompt!





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