

SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

MCNEAL SAMS
COLLEGE CONSULTING



WHO WE ARE

McNeal Sams College Consulting provides expert, personalized guidance to students and families throughout the college admissions process. With decades of experience in counseling, admissions and career services, our team helps students identify best-fit schools and build strong, strategic applications.

CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2025!

We wish you all the best in your next chapter. Keep in touch! Look out for a little gift from us.

Check out pg. 3 for a checklist of to-do items before you leave for college. And there is a link to videos and handouts to help smooth your transition to college.

YOU'RE INVITED!

We are celebrating 20 years of serving students and families. Join us at our Open House on Thursday, June 19 from 1-4 pm. We will have food, fun, giveaways and even some prizes!

[RSVP today!](#)

IMPORTANT DATES

June 19 - Open House at McNeal Sams and Juneteenth

June 20 - Late registration closes for ACT testing on July 12

July 4 - Independence Day

July 28-Aug. 1 - Common App closes temporarily to prepare for the new application season

Aug. 1 - Work on supplemental essays for college applications

WHEN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TALK HEATS UP, STAY COOL

As a high school student planning for college, you have probably overheard the conversations - at dinner tables, in school hallways or even family gatherings. "How many APs are you taking?" "What's your GPA?" "Which colleges are on your list?" Sometimes it feels like the whole world is comparing test scores, debating college rankings and panicking over deadlines.



We get it; it's a lot.

Here's the thing: Much of that noise isn't really about you. It's about adult stress. Parents and families care deeply about you. Sometimes they overtalk, overshare or overanalyze because the college search and application process is such a significant experience in your life and theirs. And let's face it: College is expensive, admission is competitive, and the pressure can feel overwhelming.

Here's what we want you to remember:

- You don't have to play that comparison game.
- You don't need to have it all figured out right now.
- You do get to choose what matters most to you.

There are more than 2,800 four-year colleges in the U.S. There is a place for you. You're not behind, you're not missing out, and you're not alone. Breathe. Be kind to yourself. Stay focused on your goals, not someone else's.

You've got this. And we are here to support your journey.

DID YOU KNOW?

- We are now active on social media! Follow us on [Facebook](#), [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#) and [Threads](#).
- You can access FREE ArborBridge testing resources through CustomCollegePlan. These resources cover the ACT, SAT and much more. Speak with your MSCC counselor to get started.



SUMMER TO-DO LIST

Seniors - Class of 2025

- Continue to monitor your portal at the school you will attend. There will be lots of items to take care of before you begin college.
- Make sure you assign at least one of your parents as a "proxy." This allows them to view important items (like your tuition bill!).
- Watch the McNeal Sams "[Transition to College](#)" series of webinars and review our handouts with helpful tips.
- Have a great summer! Stay in touch.

Juniors - Class of 2026

- Finalize the list of colleges to which you will apply.
- Visit colleges.
- Complete the core sections of the Common Application (those items under the "Common App" tab).
- Finalize your personal statement essay with your McNeal Sams college consultant.
- Draft supplemental college essays. Your McNeal Sams consultant will assist you in identifying which essays are available for you to work on now.

Register for the [September ACT](#) or [August SAT](#) if necessary.

Sophomores - Class of 2027

- Schedule a meeting with your McNeal Sams college consultant to discuss:
 - testing and a test prep plan
 - review your sophomore year
 - plan for your junior year.
- Visit "sample" colleges. What size and setting of a school appeals the most?
- Update your list of activities and accomplishments, both in and out of school.

Freshmen - Class of 2028

- Assess your involvement in activities. How are you spending your time? Is there anything new you want to try?
- Make a list of your involvement in activities and accomplishments both in and out of school.
- Schedule a meeting with your McNeal Sams consultant to discuss:
 - your freshman year
 - plan for your sophomore year
 - the role of testing in college admission.