

# Beware of Confusing College Application Deadlines

By Mick Rosenblum

If you have read some of my other SAT and ACT articles, you probably understand that timing is critical when it comes to SAT and ACT preparation and testing. Unfortunately, even if parents and students plan everything to perfection, there is one glitch that will shortchange a remarkable number of diligent, well-intentioned high school seniors. Indeed, it is the diligent, well-intentioned who are most susceptible to this phenomenon.

What I am referring to is the mistaken notion that a university's application deadlines are the same as SAT and ACT testing deadlines. Although it certainly may be true, for many colleges and universities, that the deadline for submitting an application may require a student to complete all admissions testing prior to that date, some schools have admissions deadlines that do not coincide with their SAT or ACT deadlines.

Let's consider the UC (University of California) system as a case in point. Many students each year pass up the opportunity to take or retake the SAT or ACT in December, simply because those students believe that everything must be completed and submitted before the end of November (the UC application deadline). What students, parents, and even some counselors fail realize is that, although the applications are certainly due by the November deadline, the UC system accepts the December admissions tests sittings (you can find and verify this information on the University of California website).

Every year, I have this discussion with several of my students and their parents who harbor the aforementioned misassumption. In most cases, I advised them to make a telephone call to a university's Admissions Office and ask an admission's specialist one very specific question: "When is the latest that I can take my SAT or ACT for the current application?"

So please, when it comes to deadlines, do not assume anything and do not merely trust what you have heard from unofficial sources. Instead, visit the websites for each of the colleges and universities of your choice; if you can't locate the admission test deadlines there, simply place a call to the Admissions Office; someone (and I suggest you write down his or her name) will be happy to advise you. Just remember, you need facts, not guesses, opinions, or suppositions.