



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Newsletter

November, 2008

Save \$100 off a One-to-One Test Preparation tutoring program for either the January 2009 SAT or the February, 2009 ACT exam. This is a limited time offer and only applies to the above test dates. Must sign up for a minimum of 15 hours of tutoring. Savings are in addition to any applicable prepayment discount. Call 877-730-7200 today to reserve your personal tutor.

Offer Expires: December 9, 2008.

In This Issue

[Money-Saving Tips for Applying to College](#)

[New A+ Blog](#)

[Featured Tutor: Jason Tribble](#)

[Free Proctored ACT Exam Offered](#)

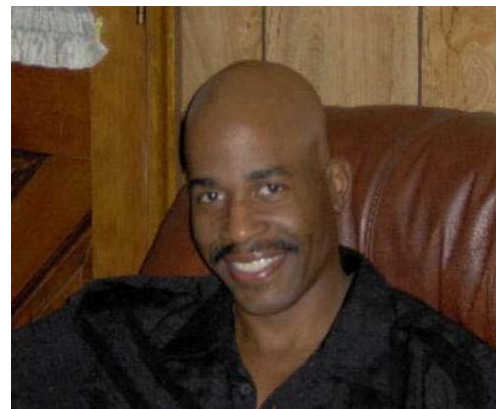
[Featured Student: Jordan Posner](#)

Money-Saving Tips for
Applying to College



Applying to colleges can be a stressful process for both parent and child alike. Selecting appropriate schools that match one's interests, the attention to detail in filling out multiple applications with varying requirements, and the flurry of deadlines can all take a toll on the parent-child relationship. Another stressful component of the application process is the financial aspect--affording not just the tuition itself, but all the other related expenses that lead up to sending Johnny off to college. Here are a few ideas about how to

Featured Tutor



Jason Tribble wears many hats at A+ Test Prep and Tutoring. First and foremost, he is an outstanding tutor who has worked for A+ for more than 7 years, specializing in SAT and ACT verbal prep, essay writing, and the

manage these expenses.

* **Standardized test registration fees:** The College Board has a fee waiver program for students for whom it might be a barrier to college entrance to pay for test registration fees. These fee waivers apply to the PSAT, SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and AP exams and are awarded to qualifying students through their school counselor. Up to two waivers may be used for the SAT and up to two for SAT Subject Tests. Students who register with fee waivers also receive these services:

- Coverage of the fee for either the Question-and-Answer Service (QAS) or the Student Answer Service (SAS)
- Up to four application fee waivers at many colleges

For more information and eligibility guidelines, follow [this link](#).

ACT also offers fee waivers to high school juniors and seniors through their school counselors, but according to the ACT website, funds are limited, and once they are gone, requests for waivers will be denied.

For details, follow [this link](#).

Even if you do not qualify for a fee waiver, you can keep testing fees in check by planning ahead and applying on time for regular registration. Late registration fees are steep (\$23 for SAT, \$20 for ACT). Other services such as changing the test date, test site, type of test, and applying for standby status also cost money. Finally, carefully consider whether you truly need additional services or products from the testing agency such as the SAT Question-and-Answer Service or the ACT Test Information Release, rush reporting service, or registering by phone.

Take advantage of the free score reports sent by SAT and ACT. At the time of registration for either exam, students can designate up to 4 colleges to whom they would like their scores sent for free. The SAT allows up to 9 days after registration for you to designate these schools. This can save you up \$38. Otherwise the fees are \$9 per ACT score report, and \$9.50 per SAT score report.

* **College application fees:** Similarly, many colleges offer application fee waivers for financially needy families. College application fees typically range anywhere from \$35 to \$70, and when you add up the number of schools to which your teen is applying, these fees mount up quickly. Some colleges offer fee waivers to potential applicants they would like to attract to their school. These fee waivers can either come in the mail or by email, usually as a result of your child having checked off the student search service when they took the SAT.

- Another way to save money is to work hard with your teen to narrow down her list to a reasonable number of schools. By doing work ahead of time--browsing websites, visiting colleges, consulting with her guidance counselor, and carefully considering factors such as size, competitiveness, and location--you can

Study Power and Vocabulary Booster programs.

In addition to one-on-one tutoring, Jason teaches twice a week at The Allegheny West Foundation, one of our group, after-school program partners.

In addition to tutoring, Jason has the very important job of training new tutors in our verbal SAT prep program. He introduces newly hired tutors to the A+ curriculum, instructs them in our methods and procedures, and through role-play techniques coaches them in how to establish and maintain rapport with students.

As if all that weren't enough, Jason also performs other administrative duties for A+; he helps us maintain excellent relations with our clients by contacting every parent by phone during the course of the student's tutoring program to ensure that both parent and student are satisfied with the tutor and the progress the student is making.

When not working for A+, Jason works full-time as a special education teacher for the School District of Philadelphia. For the last three years, he has worked at Northwestern Human Services where he teaches in a vocational program for high-school students with special needs.

Jason graduated with a degree in political science from Temple University where he participated in the legislative fellowship program. After serving in Harrisburg, he worked in government for a while before he turned his attention to the private sector.

What Jason enjoys most about tutoring is helping students reach their full potential and giving them a sense of what academia can offer them through hard work and focusing on goals.

In his spare time, Jason enjoys drawing, playing the guitar (he was in a band briefly), and fast cars! He lives in Bensalem with his wife of 13 years.

Free Proctored
ACT Exam



A+ Test Prep is offering a FREE proctored ACT exam at our Gwynedd Office on December 13, 2008 at 9:00 AM. Registration is open to the public. To register and reserve a space please call our office at

work together to make a sensibly sized list of a few safety, several target, and one or two "reach" schools. By paring the list down, you will save both on application fees and the cost of sending test scores.

- Finally, some colleges waive their application fees for those who apply on-line. Bryn Mawr College and Drexel University are two local schools with such policies.

*** Visiting colleges:** First, don't get caught up in the notion that you must make numerous road trips and visit 20 colleges in person. Many colleges now have excellent virtual tours available through their websites, and such virtual visits may be enough to rule a school in or out as a potential match. When you do visit colleges with your teen, try to group visits to schools in the same vicinity and take day trips if feasible so you avoid the cost of a hotel room and extra meals, or stay with a friend or relative. If your daughter has a friend who is interested in similar schools, you may want to consider traveling together and sharing the cost of gas and tolls. Some colleges offer free parking to visitors, while others will validate your parking ticket. It is a good idea to phone the school in advance to register with them for the information session and tour. When you confirm your intended visit date, also inquire about parking and fees. If you must stay overnight, many college websites have links to area hotels with various price points.

*** Applying strategically:** If your son or daughter is certain about the college he or she wishes to attend, two excellent options are to apply either Early Decision or Early Action if the school offers these options. Early Decision is a binding agreement--if the applicant is accepted, she is obligated to attend that school. Early Action is non-binding--the applicant is notified of a decision earlier than the regular pool of applicants, but is not obligated to attend the school. Many Early Decision applicants are notified by December 15th, so if the student is admitted, she saves on application fees and the cost of sending test scores to other schools. If a student is admitted Early Action to a school that is, say, a target school, she can then adjust her list of colleges accordingly and omit some safety schools to which she had been planning to apply, thereby saving on application fees and the cost of sending test scores.

Note: In the event a student is deferred or rejected by Early Decision or Early Action, she will still have time to apply to other schools. Most regular application deadlines are January 1st, January 15th, or February 1st. However it is advisable to have these applications ready to go.

A+ Blog

877.730.7200.

Note: Space is limited, so call today.

Featured Student



Jordan Posner

Jordan Posner, a senior at Upper Dublin High School, was tutored last spring by A+ tutors Leslie Merrigan and Kathy Astrue in Math and Verbal SAT prep, respectively. Jordan reaped the benefits of his hard work in the program by seeing a remarkable increase of 280 points overall between his PSAT scores and his May 2008 SAT scores! Included in that May score was an impressive essay subscore of 11 (out of a possible 12). Jordan is now enjoying his senior year because he has been accepted to two colleges already--the University of Hartford and the University of Pittsburgh--while he still awaits decisions from 7 other colleges.

Jordan credits his success in the A+ program to "clicking" with both of his tutors and to the structure of the curriculum. By breaking down each component of the test, his tutors were able to help Jordan strengthen his skills in that particular area. Completing multiple practice tests also helped acquaint him with the structure of the test, the length of each section, and got him in test-taking mode. In the tutoring session that followed, each tutor would then review with him in detail both content and strategic mistakes.

His verbal tutor reports that "Jordan was not at all confident at the outset of the program. He doubted his writing ability, was unclear about grammar rules that he had not reviewed since 8th grade, and was uncertain about how to approach long reading passages. By the end of the program, Jordan was a far more confident test-taker: he was writing essays with both substance and flair,




he recognized grammar mistakes more readily, and knew better how to attack reading passages. Jordan was truly dedicated to improving his scores and put in the necessary effort both in and out of our sessions to make sure that would happen." His test results speak for themselves.

We congratulate Jordan, and wish him continued success in college next year.

Check out our [new blog](#) on the A+ website! We've added this feature to keep you updated about test prep, college admissions, and other educational issues. The blog will be updated regularly with links to articles, upcoming A+ events, our word of the day, and fun "math and verbal tidbits."

School and Community Partnerships



A+ Test Prep and Tutoring provides in-home One-to-One Test Prep and Academic Subject Tutoring throughout the Delaware Valley.

We also partner with schools and social service agencies to provide test preparation, remedial reading and math, and study skills courses to students throughout the region. Courses offered include SAT, ACT, SSAT, and ISEE. For more information please contact me at 215.886.9188.

Daniel Ascher, M.Ed.
President

Quick Links

[A+ Test Prep and Tutoring Website](#)

[Join our Mailing List](#)

[A+ Newsletter Archive](#)

[A+ Blog](#)

[SAT Website](#)

[ACT Website](#)

[Forward email](#)

✉ **SafeUnsubscribe®**

This email was sent to aplusteam@aplustutoring.com by dan@aplustutoring.com.

Email Marketing
by