



January School Partnership Newsletter

From Caroline Clock



In this month's newsletter:

- **College Admissions Update.** Stay ahead with the latest buzz in college admissions.
- **Campus Spotlight.** A deeper look into one of the rising campuses across the country.
- **Students in the process.** Grade-specific guidance from expert college admissions coaches.

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College Admissions Update

Building momentum



Building momentum after winter break: productive habits colleges love to see

Happy 2026! The start of a new year is more than a fresh calendar, it can be a reset. January is a critical moment when colleges look for consistency, growth and follow-through. What students do after winter break can quietly strengthen or weaken your application narrative.

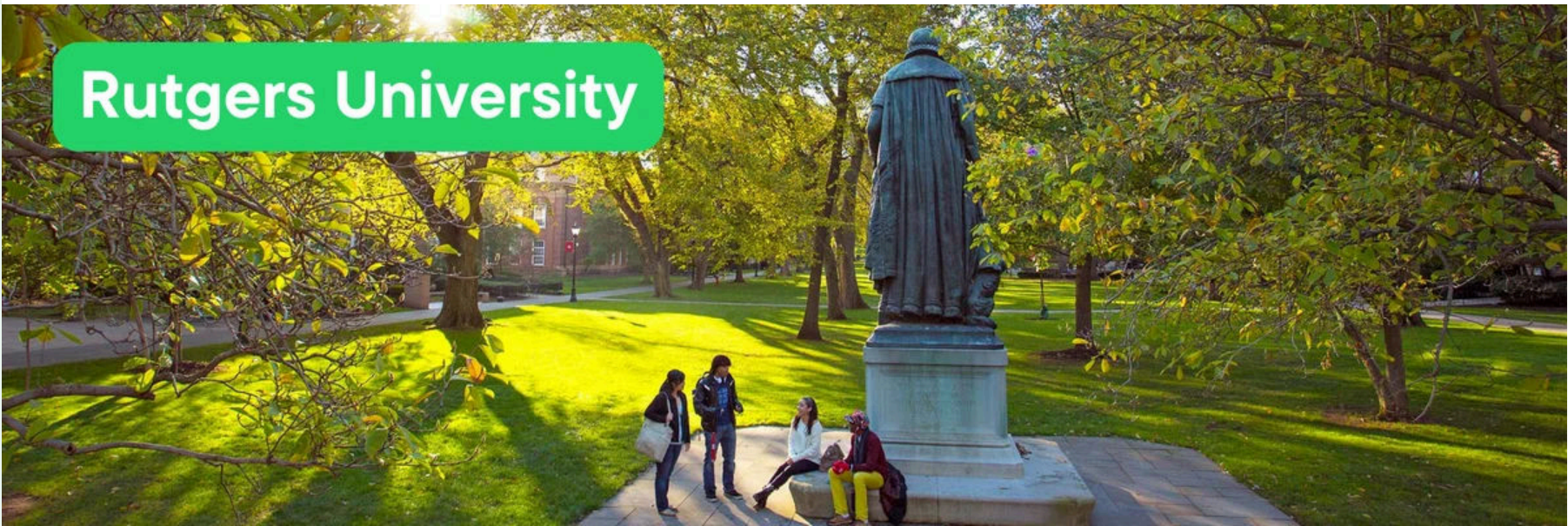
Try building some productive habits colleges love to see in students:

- **Academic consistency** - Colleges pay close attention to midyear & second semester grades. Continuing to have strong grades or have improvements show resilience and maturity.
- **Meaningful engagement** - Depth matters more than quantity. Growing in your leadership roles, involvement in your clubs, spring competitions in organizations such as HOSA or DECA shows follow-through to colleges.
- **Purposeful goal-setting** - Set up your realistic goals and get them started!
 - If it's finding out what you want to study- *dive into research online.*
 - If it's gaining work experience, *perfect your resume and find local opportunities that could give you the first leg up.*
 - If it's giving back to the animal shelter- *create a schedule to volunteer frequently and offer suggestions to improve their functions/support.*

We do not think there are limits on what you can accomplish, in this new year you shouldn't either.

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Campus Spotlight



[Rutgers-New Brunswick](#)

Rutgers New Brunswick isn't just large, it is massive! There is always something new to check out. From historic buildings you might stumble upon, to peaceful gardens that make you forget about classes for a while, to nonstop performances, games, and campus events, boredom is almost impossible. It is one of the Top 20 public universities in the nation and Top 100 most innovative colleges on campus.

About 25 % of their current freshmen class are first generation college students. Through programs like SSS Thrive Scholars students receive 1:1 coaching and attend workshops to assure they are successful in this new atmosphere. Check out more information on SSS Thrive Scholars [here](#).

Whether you are into art, nature, sports, food, or just wandering around with friends, this campus feels like a little world of its own.

Explore Rutgers'-New Brunswick has five campuses:

- **Busch:** Home of the health schools & research lab and the beautiful SHI stadium.
- **College Avenue:** Known for housing the Honors College at the heart of campus life.
- **Cook:** one of the most beautiful sections of the university for its greenery and relaxing atmosphere.
- **Douglass:** beautiful colonial architecture (old school vibes) sprawling lawns, and the Global Village living-learning communities.
- **Livingston:** Home to the Business School and a massive solar array that is powering the campus.

[**Rutgers' Road to Wall Street \(RTWS\)**](#) is the go-to program for students dreaming of careers in finance, from investment banking to asset management! Through the program, you will:

- **Learn real-world skills** like financial modeling, valuation, and equity research
- **Receive one-on-one mentorship** from alumni and upperclassmen
- **Attend networking events and guest lectures** that open doors to top internships

It’s a fast track to Wall Street, helping you build both the know-how and the connections you need to land a competitive finance role!

Rutgers’ mix of tradition and programs that prepare students for the future is the perfect place to explore!

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Students in the process

9th- Participate in summer activities

Summer is a perfect time to explore your interests and start building experiences that can help with college applications down the line. Focus on activities that show curiosity, commitment, and leadership:

- Volunteer or contribute to your community
- Work a part-time position
- Take a class, learn a new skill, or dive into a hobby
- Join a summer program or pre-college course
- Start a project, lead an initiative, or even try a small business

Choose activities connected to your possible major or career, stick with them long enough to show dedication, and look for ways to take on leadership or responsibility. Colleges love seeing focus, consistency, and initiative!

10th- Advanced courses study planning

AP tests will be here before you know it! Make sure to prioritize your studying and have a clear plan. Breaking your prep into manageable steps now will help you feel confident and ready on exam day.

- **Get familiar with your exam format:** Review [your](#) course to see how long the test is, whether it’s multiple-choice or free-response (or both), and what kinds of questions to [expect](#).
- **Use available free resources:** On [AP Classroom](#) you’ll find videos, practice sessions, old free-response questions, and sample answers. These are super helpful for practicing with the real test style.
- **Make a realistic study schedule:** Spread out your studying over weeks instead of cramming. Break material down into manageable chunks, review regularly, and include both reading and practice questions.
- **Form or join a study group:** Working with classmates helps you tackle hard problems, compare notes, and stay motivated. Sometimes explaining a

concept to someone else helps you understand it better.

- **Practice under test-like conditions:** Do timed practice tests (both multiple-choice and free-response) to get used to pacing and the pressure of time.

11th- Spring course planning

During the spring semester you will choose your courses. Consider how your courses align with potential majors or career paths.

Colleges love to see students constantly challenging themselves with their course selection. Every year you should be taking more rigorous coursework in the admissions world. We call this having an upward trajectory. Challenging yourself over time shows growth and academic ambition.

Tips for choosing courses:

- **Build on your strengths:** Pick subjects where you've already done well or are genuinely interested in.
- **Choose AP, DE/DC courses strategically:** Use AP classes to master foundational subjects for your major and DE/DC courses to explore electives or dive deeper into areas of interest.
 - Colleges and universities are looking at dual enrollment or credit courses as additional courses that align with what you anticipate to take in college. Electives or general education classes associated with your major are highly recommended.
 - If it does not align with your major's classes in college- it is not a class worth taking in dual enrollment.

12th- Following up with schools still pending information

During admissions season we are going to be faced with a lot of ambiguous words. It is important you understand that each school's terms can differ:

- **Accepted:** You have been admitted to the school and for what term (summer or fall).
- **Denied:** You have not been offered admission for the incoming class. You can file an appeal with the school. Each school has a distinct process on how to complete these appeals.
- **Deferral:** You are still being considered, but they would like to gather more information before making a final decision. For some schools they will ask for updated academics (grades and/or test scores) or a letter of continued interest or additional response needed.

- FSU is asking for more clarification as to why you are a great fit for their campus through a short-response or 90-second video.

- **Waitlist:** Your application decision is still pending based on the acceptances of other students. Continue to send in updated information and be prepared to receive this information late into the spring/early summer.
- **Apply as a transfer to be reconsidered:** Some schools separate their transfer applications from their first-year applications. If you are receiving your AA from an accredited state college, submit your transcript and complete the necessary information to be reconsidered. It is worth clarifying with the schools if they have already considered your acceptance as a transfer or not.

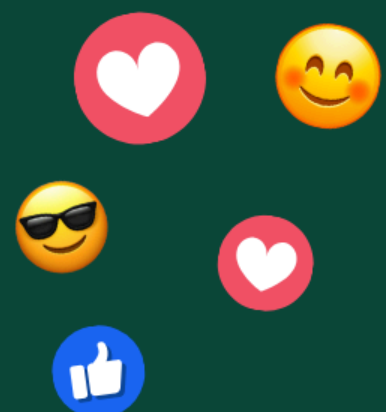
Got an Early Action college acceptance?

Share your good news with your Prepory counselors so we can celebrate your achievement and highlight your success!

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Feedback

Tell us how we're doing



If you have had an amazing experience with Prepory this year, feel free to share your thoughts here.

[Feedback Survey](#)

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If you have more questions or interest in learning more, schedule a meeting below!

[Book A Meeting](#)

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