

# How has Covid-19 affected the College Application Process

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High School Seniors already have it as tough as it is when applying to colleges and finding the perfect college that will help meet their goals in life, now add a global pandemic on top of that. This is the new and challenging reality they face: applying to college during a global pandemic. Between the summer of junior and senior year of high school many students embark on the adventure of visiting as many colleges as they can before the start of their final year, however, this summer college visits were put on halt. In an effort to still give some sort of visit to these students many colleges made their visits virtual. Although the visits were still made possible it's just not the same, how is one able to decide where to start the rest of their lives and careers over a video? Even as colleges have reopened beginning mid-August and September, the visits still have had an immense change from how they once were.

In late August, I went on an in person college visit to Eastern Kentucky University. The students and staff were very pleasant and the school did an excellent job of ensuring the safety of everyone. However, because of Covid-19 there were many things I got to miss out on. The majority of the visit was spent outside, except a conference room where visitors met. I was not able to go into any buildings other than 2, visitors did not see any of the classrooms, the cafeteria, or the dorms. Out of all the things I did not get to see, the dorms were definitely the biggest part of the visit I missed out on. It is very nerve wracking not being able to see the place where I would be living in person, even though they offer a virtual tour. Eastern Kentucky

University though, and many other colleges as well, have done their absolute best with the current situation the world is handling right now by prioritizing the Class of 2021 and the safety of all of their students and staff as some visits are now taking place. Amongst other things that have changed about the college application process, some things have also changed for the better. Many colleges have made the requirement of sending in ACT or SAT scores optional. For many students, especially the students who struggle with test taking this is a major relief. As Covid-19 has changed everyone's life, for the Class of 2021 Covid-19 has further complicated the college application process students were timid to approach originally.

