Program Overview

South Bronx United aims to provide every program participant with the tools necessary to graduate high school and enter college. The SBU College Mentoring Program plays an essential part in this mission, providing the individualized attention necessary to help youth graduate high school college ready.

Commitment:

- All Mentors are asked to commit to working with the student for a full school year, September – June.

Mentorship Positions:

- **HS Junior Mentor**: Focused on helping students gain the skills/knowledge necessary to succeed on SAT or ACT exam
- **HS Senior Mentor**: Focused on helping students navigate the college application process

General Schedule: The mentorship program is divided into stages that have slightly different schedules.

- **HS Junior Mentors**:
  - September – June: Weekly Wednesday meetings, 6:30-8:00pm
- **HS Senior Mentors**
  - September – June: Bimonthly Monday meetings, 6:30-8:00pm

Location:

- The Urban Assembly School for Careers in Sports, Mott Haven High School Campus,
  - 730 Concourse Village West, Bronx, NY 10451
- South Bronx United Office
  - 594 Grand Concourse, Suite #2, Bronx, NY 10451

Matching:

- Each mentor will be matched with a student. Matches will happen after orientation. Mentors will be asked to contact students to introduce themselves.

Mentorship Areas

**SAT Preparation (Juniors):**

- The SBU SAT Prep Program combines a weekly course taught by *Revolution Prep* and weekly one on one tutoring sessions over a 9 week period leading up to the May SAT. All students are
provided their own prep materials and take 3-4 practice exams over the 9 week period. Junior Mentors provide the one on one tutoring.

Regents Preparation (Juniors and Seniors):

- All (with some exceptions) NY high school students must pass regents exams in 5 subject areas to graduate high school. Both Junior and Senior Mentors will provide support for students in preparing for these exams.

Skills Building (Juniors):

- HS Junior Mentors work with students to improve basic math skills (geometry, algebra, pre-algebra), reading, writing, and vocabulary

College Application Process (Seniors):

- Senior Mentors will work with students to help find schools that match student’s interests and submit applications in a timely manner. Meetings will generally be on monthly basis during evenings from 6:30-8pm. Areas to be covered:
  - School Research
  - College Sports Inquiries (if wanting to play collegiate sports)
    - Letters to Coaches/Invitations to see to play
    - Highlight Reels
    - Sports Resume
  - Application Fee Waivers – CUNY, SUNY, College Board
  - Personal Statement
  - Resume
  - School Applications

Financial Aid/Scholarships (Seniors):

- Mentors will work with students to make sure that they are accessing all resources available to them to make college affordable. Primary areas to cover:
  - EOP/SEEK/HEOP
  - FAFSA & TAP
  - Private Scholarships
  - SBU Scholarship

Acceptances (Seniors):

- Analyzing Financial Aid Packages and Deciding on a School
- Meeting Deposit Deadline
- Signing up and attending necessary Orientations (SEEK/EOP), Placement Tests (CUNY)
- Look at Summer College Readiness Programs (ex. Grace Outreach)
Mentor Responsibilities

HS Senior Mentors

- Attend August Orientation and Mentorship Kick Off Event
- Meet at least twice a month with Mentee
- Contact student by their preferred method (phone, facebook, email) before each meeting to remind them about the meeting
- Be available by phone, email outside of meeting times to answer questions, revise materials, help with research, etc
- Update Progress Report Google Doc after each meeting with student
- If rescheduling with a student, notify the SBU program coordinator of the change

HS Junior Mentors

- Attend August Orientation and Mentorship Kick Off Event
- Meet weekly with the student
- Contact student by their preferred method (phone, facebook, email) before each meeting
- Update Progress Report Google Doc after each meeting with student
- If rescheduling/canceling with a student, notify the SBU program coordinator of the change

Skills Building & SAT Prep (Juniors)

Schedule

- Skills Building: September – February, 6:30-8pm
- SAT Specific: March – April, 6:30-8pm

Materials

- The primary resource will be the Revolution Prep SAT Workbook
- Supplementary Resources
  - College Board SAT Guide
  - Online Resources
    - Khan Academy: khanacademy.com
I need a pencil: ineedapencil.ck12.org

Primary Tasks

- **September-April**
  - Tutors should focus on building basic math, reading, writing and vocabulary skills
  - Provide homework help when needed
  - Help students study for Regents exams in January

- **March-April**
  - Provide tutoring to students to supplement the Revolution Prep Course
  - Tutoring will be focused around student homework from Rev Prep Course so tutors should do the hw prior to meeting with the students so that it can be explained with ease
  - Tutors should note gaps in student knowledge that appear when doing homework. When noticing such gaps other resources should be used to teach areas where student’s are lacking
  - Tutors should contact students who’ve missed either session (Mon or Wed) of the SAT prep course
  - Tutors should familiarize themselves with supplementary materials
  - Tutors should help students register for May SAT

- **May – June**
  - Help student prepare for June Regents Exams
  - Help them create Soccer Resumes and send inquiry letter to college coaches

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**SAT Registration (Juniors & Seniors)**

**SAT Registration and Fee Waivers**

- Registering for SAT: Mentors will help facilitate student registration for the SAT. Nearly all students are eligible for 2 free SAT waivers. Areas mentors should assist with:
  - Reminding students to go to counselor to get their SAT fee waiver
  - Contacting counselor if the student is having trouble getting in touch with them
  - Creating college board account online. Student should provide College Board username and password to the SBU Coordinator after creating the account.
  - Ensuring Junior mentees registers for the May SAT on time (Early April Deadline) and the code on the waiver is entered. Ensuring Senior mentees register for October or November SAT.
  - Students will have to upload a picture to be used on their SAT ticket. Can take the picture and upload it for them.
  - Printing out SAT test day admission ticket
Regents (Juniors & Seniors)

Overview:

- All (with a few exceptions) NY high school students must pass regents exams in 5 subject areas to graduate high school. Both Junior and Senior Mentors will provide support for students in preparing for these exams.
- The exams can be taken repeatedly and are offered twice a school year and once over the summer break.

Subject Areas that Must be Passed (1 in each category) to Receive a Regents Diploma:

- Math: Take and pass (65 or above) any of the following
  - Integrated Algebra, Geometry, OR Algebra 2/Trigonometry
- Science: Take and pass (65 or above) any of the following tests
  - Living Environment, Chemistry, Earth Science, OR Physics
- US History and Gov’t (65 or above)
- Global History and Geography (65 or above)
- English (65 or above)

Exams that Must be Passed (65 or above) to Receive an ADVANCED Regents Diploma

- Math: Must pass 3 exams
  - Integrated Algebra, Geometry, AND Algebra 2/Trigonometry
- Science: Must pass 2 exams
  - Living Environment AND
  - 1 Physical Science: Chemistry, Earth Science, OR Physics
- US History and Gov’t
- Global History and Geography
- English
- Language Other Than English: 1 exam
  - 21 different languages offered

CUNY College Readiness

- In order to be found to be “college ready” by CUNY and eligible for regular acceptance into 4 year CUNY Universities a student must:
  - Pass 1 Math Regent with a score of 80 or above AND
  - Pass the English Regent with a score of 75 or above
- It is also possible for students to be found college ready in other ways, including through scores on SAT, ACT, or CUNY Assessment Test (CAT). To learn necessary scores visit CUNY’s website.
Schedule

- Regents exams are taken in late January and early June

Tasks

- Find out which regents students have yet to pass and have failed prior
- Find out which subject areas are difficult for the students and require specific attention, if any
- Find out what type of regents prep their school is providing them
- Assess whether an Advance Regents Diploma would be possible and worth going for
- Focus sessions more closely on regents in December/January and May/June

Materials

- SBU has a complete set of Barron’s Regents Prep books.
- nysedregents.org has prior exams to use as practice tests

Applying to College (Seniors)

Due to the vast state and city university system, the New York college application process is distinct from many other states and from applying to private schools. Special attention should be paid to the programs and application process of the City University New York (CUNY) and the State University of New York (SUNY) school systems.

City University of New York (CUNY)

- System of 23 College in NYC, including both 2 year and 4 year programs
- Can apply online at http://www.cuny.edu/admissions/apply.html
  - Apply to up to six schools through one application (and application fee)
- Application fee waiver for those meeting financial requirement is available through HS counselor
- Feb 1 application deadline for most CUNY Schools
- No Personal Statement required
- Must score 80 or above on Math Regent and 75 or above on English Regent to be eligible for 4 year CUNYs (or meet certain SAT, ACT, or CUNY Placement Test Scores)
- NY College Opportunity Program is called SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation and Knowledge)
  - To apply for SEEK simply have to check the appropriate box on the CUNY application
- For a list of CUNY schools along with the average scores for admitted students, please visit: http://www.cuny.edu/admissions/undergraduate/downloads/Admission-Profile-2012.pdf
State University of New York (SUNY)

- System of 64 colleges across New York State, includes both 2 year and 4 year programs
- Can apply online at https://www.suny.edu/appliesuny/
  - There may be colleges that you cannot apply to through SUNYs portal and must be applied to individually
  - Many SUNYs also accept the Common Application
  - Apply to multiple schools through one application
  - Can apply to 4 schools with one fee waiver
- Application fee waiver for those meeting financial requirement is available online
  - It must be filled out by the student and then taken to high school counselor to sign
- Feb 1 application deadline for most SUNY Schools
- Personal Statement/SUNY Supplemental Application required by nearly all schools
  - List of schools requiring: https://www.suny.edu/student/apply_supp_apps.cfm
- NY College Opportunity Program is called EOP (Education Opportunity Program)
  - Applying for EOP requires additional documentation (biographical essay) should contact individual schools/visit their website to see specific requirements
- For a list of SUNY schools along with the average scores for admitted students, please visit: https://www.suny.edu/student/downloads/Pdf/2013_Admissions_qf_stateop.pdf

NY College Opportunity Programs
New York College Opportunity Programs provide students, who may not have the general academic record/requirements to gain admission into CUNY, SUNY, or select NY private schools, the opportunity to attend schools and extra financial and academic support, if they meet certain financial criteria and display the potential succeed. Here is a list of the various NY opportunity programs:

- **SEEK (Search for Education, Elevation, and Knowledge) - CUNY**
  - The College Opportunity program for all 4 Year CUNY Schools
  - Simply apply by noting that you’d like to be considered on the CUNY app (should be a check box)
  - Provides extra financial support, summer preparation programs, tutoring throughout the year

- **CD (College Discovery) - CUNY**
  - The College Opportunity program for all 2 Year CUNY Schools
  - Simply apply by noting that you’d like to be considered on the CUNY app (should be a check box)

- **EOP (Educational Opportunity Program) - SUNY**
  - The College Opportunity program for SUNY schools.
  - Must note interest in the EOP program on SUNY applications
  - Requires supplemental information that can be found on individual schools websites or by calling admissions offices

- **HEOP (Higher Education Opportunity Program) – Private Colleges/Universities**
The College Opportunity program for select private institutions in New York. For a list of all private colleges with HEOP programs please see: http://heop.org/roster/

Application Fee Waivers
Please be aware that CUNY, SUNY, the College Board, National Association for College Admission Counseling (NACAC) offer fee waivers for applications. Additionally, many privates schools have a their own method for having the application fee waived so check with school admission offices.

- CUNY Waiver: To be obtained from HS counselor. Covers 6 schools.
- SUNY Waiver: To be downloaded and then signed by HS counselor. Covers 4 schools.
- College Board: To be obtained from HS counselor. Covers 4 schools from this list: http://professionals.collegeboard.com/profdownload/sat-fee-waiver-directory-of-colleges.pdf
- NCAC: To be downloaded and signed by HS counselor. Covers 4 schools (most common application schools accept it).
  - http://www.nacacnet.org/studentinfo/feewaiver/Pages/default.aspx

Application Expectations
- All SBU Students should be completing the SUNY (including supplemental) and CUNY applications
- SBU students should be strongly encouraged to complete the common application and use College Board or NACAC fee waivers to apply to select private institutions, especially those on the HEOP list.

High School Requirements

In addition to passing regents in 5 subject areas, NY students must obtain 44 credits. The break down of credits by subject area is available here: http://schools.nyc.gov/NR/rdonlyres/215FF06B-DCA3-442B-89DF-18E674DC867E/0/Acpolicygened.pdf

To Note:
- Students may be able to obtain Physical Education credits through their participation on SBU soccer teams

Athletic Recruitment (Juniors & Seniors)
Divisions:
The Division a school plays in is important as it dictates whether they are able to offer athletic scholarships. However, connecting with coaches at Division III schools (no athletic scholarships) can still be helpful in many ways. Check a school's division at [http://www.ncaa.com/schools](http://www.ncaa.com/schools). A list of local schools and their soccer divisions is available on SBU's College Prep page [http://www.southbronxunited.org/programpages/college-prep-resources](http://www.southbronxunited.org/programpages/college-prep-resources).

- NCAA Div I - offers athletic scholarships
  - SUNY D1 schools (Double Check as may be out of date): U of Buffalo, Binghamton, Stony Brook, Albany
- NCAA Div II - offers athletic scholarships
  - CUNY D2 schools (Double Check as may be out of date): Queens College
- NCAA Div III - no athletic scholarships
  - Most SUNY and CUNY schools are DIII with the above being the exceptions
- NJCAA Div I - 2 year programs offer athletic scholarships
- NJCAA Div III - 2 year programs, no athletic scholarships
- NAIA - some scholarships available

Eligibility:

- **NCAA Division 1**
  - SAT: sliding scale based on GPA (higher the GPA lower the SAT), minimum 400 Math & Verbal combined
  - GPA: sliding based on SAT, minimum is 2.0 in core subjects
  - Courses: 16 Core Course must be completed (see above link for detail)
- **NCAA Division 2**
  - SAT: 820 combined on Math & Verbal
  - GPA: 2.0 in core courses
  - Courses: 16 Core Course must be completed (see above link for detail)
- **NCAA Eligibility Center (aka Clearinghouse)**
  Students must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center to be able to receive scholarships. The Center checks the eligibility of students to participate. Suggested time to do this is early junior year but it is often done later.
  - Fee waivers are available
    - [https://web1.ncaa.org/hsportal/exec/homeAction](https://web1.ncaa.org/hsportal/exec/homeAction)
  - Students MUST have counselor send transcript to Eligibility Center
  - Students MUST have SAT or ACT reported directly to Eligibility Center
    - When registering for SAT or ACT use the Eligibility Center code of 9999 to ensure SAT or ACT scores are reported directly to the Eligibility Center
  - To register visit: [http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp](http://web1.ncaa.org/ECWR2/NCAA_EMS/NCAA.jsp)
Contacting Coaches:
When contacting college coaches in addition to drafting an email to use, youth should be creating a soccer resume, creating a highlight video if possible, including a schedule of games/important tournaments where the coach could view them, and including hs and club coach’s contact info.

- **Resume:** template available on SBU college prep resource page
- **Highlight Video:** many of these have already been made by SBU staff/volunteers. For those that don’t have one, examples available at: www.youtube.com/user/SouthBronxUnited
- **Invitation to Tournaments/Games:** Make sure to invite coaches to games, especially tournaments like the *SBU College Showcase* (held Easter weekend)

Schools with SBU Link
SBU knows the coaches at some schools very well and can help youth make the connection. Here is a list of a few schools/coaches with whom SBU has a strong relationship:

- SUNY Morrisville, ASA (2 year), St Peters, Fordham, Temple, Evansville, Monroe, Fulton Montgomery CC,

Scholarships (Seniors)

There are numerous opportunities for scholarships and students and their mentors should do research beyond what is listed here. All seniors should be applying for the SBU Scholarship.

- **Scholarship Search:** A couple helpful sites for searching for relevant scholarships:
  - [https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search)

- **Select Scholarships:** including the South Bronx United Scholarship. To access these scholarships visit: [http://www.southbronxunited.org/programpages/college-prep-resources](http://www.southbronxunited.org/programpages/college-prep-resources)
  - South Bronx United Scholarship
  - Foot Locker Scholar Athlete
  - AXA Achievement Community Scholarship
  - ABENY Scholarship
  - Jay-Z Scholarship (especially for GED students)
  - Albert Shanker College Scholarship Fund

- **Scholarships for Undocumented Students**
  - MALDEF Scholarships List: [http://www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/](http://www.maldef.org/leadership/scholarships/)
Financial Aid (Seniors)

Virtually all students should be completing both a FAFSA and TAP application in order to be eligible for both federal and state financial assistance as soon as possible. Even if students have goals of going out of state for college they should still apply for NY state aid.

**FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid):**
Most students should qualify for a substantial amount federal financial aid including both grants (does not need to be paid back) and loans (repaid with interest).

- Students should apply as early as possible as money is distributed on a first come first serve basis.
- If a student’s financial aid package seems low based on family income, an appeal can be filed for reconsideration.
- Mentors should counsel students on the drawbacks of taking out loans, especially higher interest unsubsidized loans and brainstorm ways to avoid loans (work study, living off campus, etc)

**TAP (NY State Tuition Assistance Program):**
TAP provides additional financial assistance to students at approved schools in New York State.

- After completing the FAFSA the confirmation page should link students to the TAP and facilitate easier completion of the application.

**Special Issues to be Aware of Regard Immigration Status:**

- **Students with Undocumented Parents**
  - Anyone with legal permanent status qualifies for FAFSA (includes refugees, asylees)
  - If the parents do not have valid Social Security numbers, they would fill in all 0’s for the Social Security number section within the FAFSA application. Note: You may receive an error message, but you should proceed anyways.
  - If parents filed taxes then they would need to submit taxes (income, property, etc...) from whichever country they filed in order to declare income on the FAFSA (if they worked abroad before moving here or if they have a tax identification number)
  - If parents did not file their taxes, this does NOT disqualify a student from receiving financial aid. The parents who did not file taxes should simply put will not file under their tax status within the FAFSA application
  - Because the parents are not eligible to receive an electronic pin #, they must print out the FAFSA profile, sign the documents, and send via mail to the correct FAFSA address
  - The individual school that a student has received acceptance to will probably follow up about Parents who have not filed taxes, but schools like CUNY will work with them and will ensure the student receives as much aid as possible
• Students without Permanent Status (includes those with certain visas and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals/DACA aka Dream Act)
  o Make sure the student speaks with Carlos to be screened for potential avenues of relief and financial aid options
  o See list of scholarships that are available for students irrespective of status
  o PLEASE NOTE: If students graduate from an NY high school or meet other residential requirements in NY they are eligible for in state tuition and status is not an issue.

Deadlines/Suggested Completion Dates

SENIORS

Sept 6: Deadline to Register for October SAT

Sept 30: SBU Suggested Deadline for getting all Fee Waivers for Applications (CUNY, SUNY, NACAC, Collegeboard)

Oct 3: Deadline to Register for November SAT

Oct 15: SBU Suggested Deadline for Contacting College Coaches AND Asking for Teacher Recs

Nov 1: SUNY Early Decision Deadline, Common Early Decision Deadline for Colleges

Nov 8: Deadline to Register for December SAT

Nov 15: SUNY Early Action Deadline, Common Early Action Deadline for Colleges

Dec 1: SBU Suggested Deadline for all CUNY and SUNY Applications

Dec 15: SBU Suggested Deadline for Common Application

Jan 1: Common Deadline for Colleges

Jan 15: SBU Suggested Deadline for FAFSA/TAP

Feb 1: General Application Deadline for CUNY Applications (should get done much earlier – Dec 1)

March/April: May be deadlines with respect to EOP/SEEK/HEOP (Orientation/Acceptance)

May 1: Common Deadline for School Acceptance/Deposits

May 15: Deadline for SBU Scholarship
May 30: SBU Suggested Deadline for figuring out what Financial Aid to Accept

JUNIORS

December 1: SBU Suggested Date to try to get fee waiver and register with NCAA Clearinghouse

January 31: SBU Suggested Deadline to Get SAT Fee Waiver from HS Counselor

April 4: Deadline to Register for May SAT

May 9: Deadline to Register for June SAT