



**Classes of 2009 and 2010  
Largest High School Graduating Classes in History**

High school juniors are feeling the pressure having seen the results for college admissions in 2009 and anticipating their turn which is just around the corner. What's worse, in 2010 they will join the class of 2009 in becoming the largest group of high school seniors graduating in our nation's history (somewhat exceeding the 3.161 million in school year 1976-1977).

The Wall Street journal reported that "the increasing competitiveness of college admissions---fueled by a demographic surge in the number of teens - --advanced the preparation for applying to college to junior year from the first semester of senior year. Guidance counselors, parents and college admissions officers now urge students to start taking advanced placement courses in junior year as well to start building a portfolio of extracurricular activities and community service projects to bolster their applications."

Even though the number of students applying to college is expected to peak nationwide this year or next, competition for admission to highly selective colleges is not likely to decrease in the near future. In fact, some of the frenzy is feeding itself. As students become aware of the growing competition, they apply to more places.

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