

Senior College Counseling – Response to COVID-19

The College Counseling Office hopes that everyone had a safe Spring Break and was able to spend some valuable family time together. Historically, this time of the year can be a stressful one for families as seniors compare financial aid and scholarship packages and decide on where to attend college in the fall. Obviously, this year has added an extra layer of angst. We are in unprecedented waters here and stand ready to advise your sons throughout the remaining months of the college admission and decision process. During school hours, College Counselors will be available via email to counsel any seniors who have questions regarding admission decisions as they continue to roll in over the next week. We can set up a time to meet via Blackboard Collaborate if a senior would prefer to meet face to face in a virtual setting.

Most colleges have cancelled on-campus admitted student events and so far, close to 200 colleges have extended the National Reply Deposit Date (typically May 1st). As a service to students and families, NACAC has provided this [online tool](#) as a central resource for information about changes in college admission events, deposit dates, and more as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Many colleges are hosting virtual accepted student events throughout the spring as well as virtual tours of their campus. We encourage families to take advantage of these online opportunities. When in doubt, please contact the college or university directly for the most up to date information.

Per the College Board, traditional face-to-face **AP Exam** administrations will not take place in May. Students will take a 45-minute [online free-response exam](#) at home. The full exam schedule, as well as specific free-response sample questions that will be on each AP Exam and additional testing details will be available by April 3, 2020. Some students may want to take the exam sooner rather than later, while the content is still fresh. Other students may want more time to practice. For each AP subject, there will be two different testing dates. Relevant free-response questions will be available in the AP Classroom for digital use so students can access all practice questions of the type that will appear on the exam.

Please remember to have your son send screenshots of all college acceptance and scholarship letters to our College Counseling Assistant, Mrs. Palopoli (palopolik@lschs.org) and have him copy his College Counselor. He should also update the status of his college decisions in SCOIR.

We encourage you to follow us on our social media platforms - Instagram [lschscollege](#), Twitter [@LSCHScollege](#), and Facebook [LSCHS - College Counseling](#) for relevant updates on how COVID-19 is impacting the college admission process.

Do not double deposit. Each year some seniors have a difficult time making up their minds about which college to enroll in after they have been accepted. Students may **NOT** send deposits to more than one college. This is called “double depositing” and is an unethical practice. Should the colleges involved determine that a student has “double deposited” your son’s admission may be jeopardized. This practice is unfair to other applicants. The “double depositor” is taking up a spot that could go to another student, who will instead be wait-listed

or turned down. **It is an acceptable practice to deposit at one college and maintain your name on a wait list at another.** However, indicating to two colleges that you will be attending by sending deposits to both should not be considered.

Understanding the wait list. Students who are waitlisted, who wish to still be considered for admission, should immediately respond to the college that they wish to remain on the waiting list. Students should also speak with their admission representative via email letting the college admissions officer know how strongly they wish to attend that college. Students should also send their most recent senior grades to the college. (First Semester grades were already sent in early February). However, something to consider is a recent quote from a college admissions officer who talks about colleges not ranking students on their waiting lists. Decisions about who will rise to the top are often a function of what admissions offices perceive as “deficiencies” in their upcoming freshman class. There might be, for example, a surplus of aspiring engineers and not enough potential English majors, or too few students from Florida, or there might be an unexpected shortage of musicians. Typically, students do not hear if they are coming off the wait list until after May 1, 2020. However, we have seen a trend of some colleges offering admission before this date.

Return award letter. By April 1, 2020, your son should have received his merit and need based grant awards and financial aid packages from the colleges to which he applied. After he compares award letters, he should pick which college he wants to attend and return the signed award letter to the chosen college. Pay close attention to deadlines for accepting the award package. Deadlines are usually within four weeks after receiving the award letter. If he misses a deadline, he may risk losing a scholarship, grant, or loan assistance.

Decline admission offers to other colleges. After he has chosen, committed, and deposited to a college, your son should write a note or email declining admission to colleges where he has been accepted but will not be attending. This will allow students on a wait list to be accepted and awarded the aid previously held for your son.

Submit deposit and housing application. Once your son knows which college he wants to attend, he can submit a housing application and deposit if he will be living on campus. He needs to do this as soon as possible because most rooms are assigned on a first-come first-served basis. The National Reply Date is May 1, 2020, however, as mentioned above, this may be delayed based on a college’s own preference considering the current situation.