

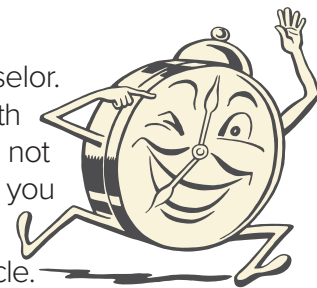


VOLUME I
ISSUE 9
JULY 31, 2020

DEADLINE: College Essay Draft is Due!

Saturday, August 1 is the deadline to submit a draft of your college essay to your college counselor. Please email as a Google document. The college counselors will read the essays during the month of August with the goal of getting you feedback before the start of the school year. If you have not prepared a draft yet, please email your college counselor and give an estimated date of when you plan to submit.

August 1 is also the day when the Common Application goes live for this year's admission cycle. When you have a chance, login to your Common Application account to update your information, add the colleges where you are planning to apply, and look at the requirements for each school.

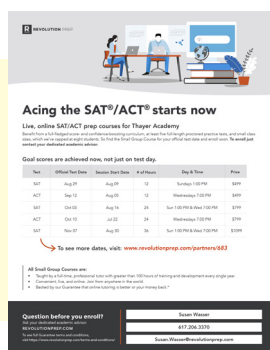


STANDARDIZED TESTING UPDATE

SAT's at Thayer

Because the coronavirus outbreak has impeded your ability to take standardized tests, Thayer has arranged to offer the SAT on two different Wednesdays this fall: September 23 and October 14. This opportunity is for Thayer seniors only, and you will have the option of taking one or both of these exams. These SAT's will not include the optional essay. You will register for the exams through Thayer, not your College Board account. If you have already registered for another SAT this fall and would like to switch to one of the Thayer test days, you can cancel that registration and be reimbursed by contacting the College Board directly. You could also speak to them about moving your registration to a later national testing date (one not offered at Thayer). Registration and payment for Thayer's SAT is separate and will be handled through the Business Office.

More information about registration and the test days will be provided at a later date.



Please see page 4 for Revolution Prep's schedule for live, online SAT/ACT prep courses customized for Thayer Academy

ACT Registration

Registration for the ACT testing dates in the fall opened on April 27, but their website could not handle the traffic so the ACT closed down their registration portal. At the time of this Virtual Brickyard publication, the ACT states that they hope to resolve the technical difficulties and re-open the registration platform on Monday, August 3. The registration deadline for the ACT exams offered on September 12, 13, and 19 is August 14.

Test Preparation with Revolution Prep

REVOLUTION PREP With standardized testing taking place over the next few months, you may feel the need to re-familiarize yourself with the exams and sharpen your test-taking skills. Thayer has a partnership with Revolution Prep, which provides online courses and tutoring to help students get ready for the SAT and ACT. Please read the flyer for more information about their offerings and contact Revolution Prep at susanwasser@revolutionprep.com if you want to inquire further. Discounts are available for students who receive financial aid from Thayer. Please see page 4.

ONLINE RESOURCES

College & Careers: 70+ Workshops, August 3-6



The College & Careers conference, sponsored by RIT, provides a range of interactive workshops, presentations, and Q&A's that showcase academics and careers. Sessions are open to seniors and their parents - they provide the opportunity to learn about potential areas of interest, engage in career exploration, and think about future pathways. There will be workshops on Art & Design, Business, Communications and Digital Media, Computing and Information Science, Engineering, Health Professions and Medical Science, Humanities and Social Sciences, Photography and Film, ROTC, and Math and Science. In addition to those workshops, the conference will also be providing college-planning presentations. To learn more about the available opportunities and to register for free, click [HERE](#)

Admission Blog: COVID Question on Common Application



Jeff Schiffman, the Dean of Admission at Tulane University, writes a blog that addresses different college admission topics every week. Last week's blog entry delves into the special question on the Common Application this year:

"Community disruptions such as COVID-19 and natural disasters can have deep and long-lasting impacts. If you need it, this space is yours to describe those impacts. Colleges care about the effects on your health and well-being, safety, family circumstances, future plans, and education, including access to reliable technology and quiet study spaces. Do you wish to share anything on this topic? Please use this space to describe how these events impacted you. This question will be optional and will appear in the Additional Information section of the application. The response length will be limited to 250 words."

Access Mr. Schiffman's blog [HERE](#) where you can read his thoughts on whether you should answer this COVID question and what you might say. You can also look back on his past posts and follow him for future insights into the college admission process.

College Admission Workshops from the University of Rochester



The admission directors at the University of Rochester are running a college admission workshop series through August. Whether you are interested in Rochester or not, these are opportunities to learn about many aspects of the college search and application process from admissions experts at a selective institution.

You can [REGISTER HERE](#) for any of the workshops listed below.

- Mock Admissions Committee:** August 6
- Selective College Admissions:** August 12
- Finding the Right Fit:** August 12
- The College Admissions Essay:** August 18
- College Admissions Interviewing 101:** August 5 & August 25

College Admissions Article



"A Year of Chaos and Flexibility," an article from *Inside Higher Education*, takes a look at the profound effect that the current pandemic is having on colleges and universities. There is a lot of uncertainty among admission offices about how this year will unfold since traditional recruiting practices have been disrupted, many schools are concerned about their viability, and their approach to application evaluation will have to adapt. This article discusses these pressures and the impact they will have on higher education and high school seniors.



SPOTLIGHT ON MAJORS:

Communications

With the pandemic trapping us in our homes for many months, our main lines of communication with the broader world have mainly been through our computers, TV's, and mobile devices. The importance of communications, in its multiple forms, has become increasingly evident during this global crisis. And in an era when we question the source and veracity of our news and information, the need for reliable and trustworthy communication sources has become even more critical. The study of communications in college has evolved significantly in the past decades in an effort to keep pace with the fast-changing media landscape. This academic field of study emphasizes how we communicate through a variety of applications: (1) Journalism, electronic media, TV & radio broadcasting, and film production; (2) Politics and public administration; (3) Global and inter-cultural communications; (4) Business and corporate communications, marketing, advertising, and public relations.

Communications majors develop analytical skills and proficiency in comprehension, analysis, writing, and speaking, enabling them to become critical thinkers and problem solvers. Communication majors benefit from a well-rounded liberal arts education, but they also develop practical experience to be effective communicators in a host of career fields through multiple platforms. As a communications major, you will take courses in research strategies, theory, rhetoric, public speaking, writing, and journalism/media.

Communications programs vary from school to school, so look at each of the school's philosophies, core requirements, and specializations. An education in communications will blend theory-based courses with skill-based and experiential learning. Most institutions will require foundational communications courses, introducing you to the field and exposing you to different research methodologies, media outlets, and writing skills. You will likely become familiar with mass communication, interpersonal communication, communication technology, and political and legal communication. Most programs should also give you the opportunity to concentrate in a communications major, developing specialized skills and experience in your areas of interest.

A communications major is versatile, granting students access to a wide variety of professions. Communication majors often work in advertising, business, education, film and TV production, government and politics, healthcare, human resources, international relations, journalism, law, marketing, public relations, social media, social work, writing and editing.

Payscale.com's "**College Salary Report**" lists salary ranges for graduates with communication majors from over 400 colleges. It provides an interesting mix of schools with some surprising results. [CLICK HERE](#)

Reflections from Communications Majors: for some insight on how communication majors put their college experience into action, check out these interviews with UPenn communications majors who are in the workforce in an array of career. [CLICK HERE](#)

THE SMARTIES CORNER

Thayer graduates from 2016-2019 are enrolled in communications programs at the following universities:

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY:

School of Communication

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY:

Walter Cronkite School of Journalism and Mass Communication

BOSTON UNIVERSITY

College of Communications

DREXEL UNIVERSITY

George Washington University:
The School of Media and Public Affairs

ITHACA COLLEGE

Roy Park School of Communications

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY

School of Journalism

SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

Newhouse School of Communications



Acing the SAT®/ACT® starts now

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Benefit from a full-fledged score- and confidence-boosting curriculum, at least five full-length proctored practice tests, and small class sizes, which we've capped at eight students. So find the Small Group Course for your official test date and enroll soon. **To enroll just contact your dedicated academic advisor.**

Goal scores are achieved now, not just on test day.

| Test | Official Test Date | Session Start Date | # of Hours | Day & Time | Price |
|------|--------------------|--------------------|------------|---------------------------|--------|
| SAT | Aug 29 | Aug 09 | 12 | Sundays 1:00 PM | \$499 |
| ACT | Sep 12 | Aug 05 | 12 | Wednesdays 7:00 PM | \$499 |
| SAT | Oct 03 | Aug 16 | 24 | Sun 1:00 PM & Wed 7:00 PM | \$799 |
| ACT | Oct 10 | Jul 22 | 24 | Wednesdays 7:00 PM | \$799 |
| SAT | Nov 07 | Aug 30 | 36 | Sun 1:00 PM & Wed 7:00 PM | \$1099 |

➔ To see more dates, visit: www.revolutionprep.com/partners/683

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