



VOLUME I
ISSUE 11
AUGUST 25, 2020

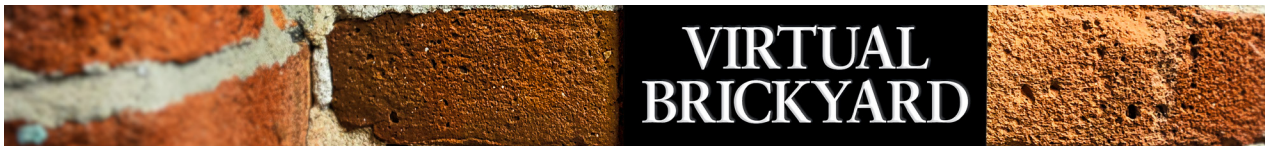
Admissions & Financial Aid Dates & Tasks

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|---------------|--|---|----------------|---|
| AUG 26 | Deadline to register for September 26 SAT (not offered at Thayer) |  | SEPT 15 | 6:00 PM :: Thayer College Counseling Presentation for Grade 12 Parents (online) |
| AUG 31 | Deadline to register for September ACT exams (not offered at Thayer) |  | OCT 1 | The Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) opens; required for all students applying for financial aid. |
| SEPT 4 | Deadline to register for October 3 SAT (not offered at Thayer) |  | | |

Other College Application Tasks

- 1 Submit a draft of your main college essay to your college counselor
- 2 Complete the Senior Questionnaire in SCOIR; Parents: complete the Parent Response Form
- 3 Enter your activities and achievements in SCOIR
- 4 Work on your Common Application





Thursday Night Live Series: Straight Talk with College Admission Leaders

Sponsored by The Derryfield School and Character Collective, these panel discussions talk about higher education, college admissions, and the current pandemic. Their kick-off event for the fall is on Thursday, September 3, at 7:00 p.m. and will feature three authors with new books out this fall on college admission. You can [register here](#) for what promises to be an interesting discussion of college admission in 2020.

Melissa Korn, co-author of [*UNACCEPTABLE: Privilege, Deceit & the Making of the College Admissions Scandal*](#). She's a reporter for The Wall Street Journal.

Jeff Selingo, author of [*Who Gets In & Why: A Year Inside College Admissions*](#). He has written about higher education for two decades. He is the author of two *New York Times* bestsellers, a contributor to *The Atlantic* and the *Washington Post*, and a special advisor for innovation at Arizona State University. He also co-hosts the podcast, FutureU.

Jacques Steinberg, co-author of [*The College Conversation: A Practical Companion for Parents to Guide Their Children Along the Path to Higher Education*](#). He is also the author of [*The Gatekeepers: Inside the Admissions Process of a Premier College*](#), a *New York Times* best-seller, and is a former *New York Times* National Education Correspondent.

Video recordings of previous TNL webinars:

[Panelists from Lawrence, UVM, and Yale.](#)

recorded June 4, 2020

[Panelists from Wellesley, Northeastern, and Wesleyan.](#)

recorded May 28, 2020

[Panelists from Williams, Syracuse, and Lafayette.](#)

recorded May 21, 2020

[Panelists from UCLA, Davidson College, and The Ohio State University.](#)

recorded May 14, 2020

[Panelists from University of Oregon, Tulane University, and Hamilton College.](#)

recorded May 7, 2020

[Panelists from Colorado College, Bowdoin College, and University of South Carolina.](#)

recorded April 30, 2020

[Panelists from Swarthmore College, Washington University in St. Louis, and The University of Notre Dame.](#)

recorded April 23, 2020

[Panelists from Bucknell University, Elon University, and Babson College.](#)

recorded April 16, 2020

Coalition for College: Virtual College Fair, August 26-27

100+ Coalition colleges will be sharing information about their schools and answering your questions in this online college fair. The sessions take place this Wednesday and Thursday between 7:00 and 10 p.m.

To learn more about the program and to register, [click here](#).

Coast to Coast: Webinar with Dartmouth, Northwestern, Princeton, UC Berkeley, and Vanderbilt.

Admissions officers from Dartmouth College, Northwestern University, Princeton University, University of California at Berkeley, and Vanderbilt University invite you to learn about their institutions, hear advice about the college search and application process, and get your questions answered.

Sunday, Aug. 30, 2020, 3:00 p.m. EDT [register here](#)

Monday, Aug. 31, 2020, 5:00 p.m. EDT [register here](#)

Financial Aid & College Scholarships

College is a major investment, and one that usually pays off down the road. But for many families, it is difficult – even impossible – to cover the full cost of college tuition and living expenses. As a rule, it is important not to dismiss a school solely because of its price tag; the “sticker price” of a school is not necessarily the amount that you will need to pay. All colleges provide some type of financial assistance to ease the burden for families that need it, and to reward some students who have earned it.

In general there are two categories of financial aid:

- 1. NEED BASED:** grant money, loans, and work study awarded based on your family’s financial situation and the feasibility of paying for college.
- 2. MERIT BASED:** scholarships awarded based on talent and ability in academics or extracurricular accomplishments.

How to Apply for Financial Aid

FAFSA: The Free Application for Federal Aid.

All colleges require this form. It determines your eligibility for federal financial assistance. Some colleges use it exclusively to determine your EFC (*estimated family contribution*). It determines “household” income only, which can include a step-parent and exclude a non-custodial parent. Based on the data provided through the FAFSA, a Student Aid Report (SAR) is generated, and most colleges use the results of that form to help determine the financial assistance that you will receive.

You can file your FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov anytime starting on October 1. Families will need their 2019 taxes to complete the form, and can download the tax information directly into the FAFSA form. Make sure you submit the FAFSA before the financial aid deadlines at the schools to which you are applying; most financial aid deadlines are the same as or shortly after the admission application deadlines.

CSS/PROFILE: Some colleges (*including many private colleges*) require this form, which provides more detailed financial information than the FAFSA, including assets such as the value of your home. Check each college to see if it requires this form. Using the information you provide on the Profile form, the College Scholarship

Service prepares a Need Analysis Report that colleges use to shape your Estimated Family Contribution and, thus, the college’s financial aid package. You can pre-register for this form at profileonline.collegeboard.com sometime in the fall of senior year and file the rest of the form before your financial aid deadlines.

Institutional Forms: a few schools still use their own forms to inquire about financial information. Check with each school to determine the appropriate forms to complete.

Net-Price Calculator: All colleges must provide a net-price calculator on their website which allows families to estimate their Cost of Attendance using standardized inputs (*i.e. income, savings, family size, etc*) and the college’s financial aid and merit aid methodology. This tool can usually be found in the Financial Aid area of a college website (although not always easy to find). We recommend filling out the Net-Price Calculator for each school before applying in order to estimate what your financial aid award might be.

In addition, you can use the website Myintuition as a quick college cost estimator. Not as many colleges are featured on this site, but this is an easy tool to use for the colleges that are featured.

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Financial Aid & College Scholarships *continued*

Outside Merit Scholarships: While some merit scholarships are granted directly by a college, others are granted by foundations and can be used at any college. You usually have to apply for these scholarships (*typically in the winter or spring of your senior year*). The money can vary from a small amount to cover books to full-ride scholarships. To find these scholarships:

- 1. Check frequently with the college counseling office;** we get mailings for scholarships and keep file folders of them. Many of these opportunities tend to be local ones. We post all scholarships (*of which we are directly notified*) on SCOIR.
- 2. Contact your local library or your local high school's guidance office,** which should keep records of scholarship opportunities, both local and national. In addition, the basement of the Boston Public Library houses the Higher Education Information Center (*HEIC*), where electronic databases of thousands of local and national scholarships are open to the general public. You can input information about you and your family and be matched with scholarships for which you may qualify.
- 3. Use a college scholarship search web site to filter your criteria and get a list of scholarships to which you can apply.** These are generally national in scope. *NEVER USE A SCHOLARSHIP SEARCH THAT REQUIRES YOU TO PAY.* We recommend fastweb.com and goingmerry.com.

Financial Aid & Scholarships Links:

FAFSA: required federal application form for financial aid

CSS/Profile: financial aid application required by many colleges

MyIntution: college cost estimating calculator

MEFA: Massachusetts Education Financing Authority

Fastweb: scholarship database

Going Merry: scholarship service



THAYER ACADEMY PULSIFER COLLEGE COUNSELING CENTER

Mr. Thad Robey, Director of College Counseling, trobey@thayer.org

Ms. Nellie Brennan Hall, Associate Director of College Counseling, nbrennanhall@thayer.org

Mrs. Christine Woods, Associate Director of College Counseling, cwoods@thayer.org

Ms. Selene Carlo-Eymer, Upper School Registrar + Coordinator to College Counseling, seymer@thayer.org