



# College Counseling Crier

October 2020

Volume 4, Issue 2

## Upcoming Standardized Test Dates

### ACT Test Dates\*

December 12, 2020  
(registration deadline is  
November 6)

### SAT Test Dates\*

November 7, 2020  
(registration deadline is  
October 7)

December 5, 2020  
(registration deadline is  
November 5)

*\*If you will be taking these tests  
with accommodations, please  
contact Mrs. From*

## Tulane's Tips for Applications



School is back in session, and we're all finding our rhythm. As many of the Early Action, Early Decision, and Priority application deadlines approach, the senior class is working closely with college counseling. Tulane University provides "[Their] [Top Ten Application Tips for 2020](#)" blogpost that we think hits all of the important points to consider when applying to college.

## What Does *Test Optional* Really Mean?



Before the mass cancellation of SAT and ACT exams around the world due to the global pandemic, over 800 colleges and universities practiced test-optional admissions. Since the pandemic, the list of test-optional (and some test blind) institutions has grown to over 1,450! As of June, [The National Center for Fair and Open Testing](#) reported that this list includes "85% of the U.S. News 'Top 100' national liberal arts colleges...[and] 60 of the 'Top 100' national universities." The list boasts "public university systems in California, Delaware, Indiana, New Hampshire, and Washington State."

But, the question begs, what does test optional really mean? Will the colleges continue to seek those students who *do* have test scores? Will holistic admissions be fair? Over 500 vice presidents, deans, directors, and other admissions leaders have embraced the "yes," in answering "does test optional really mean test optional?" The [growing list of endorsements](#) can be found on the National Association of College Admission Counseling website.

## Save the Dates

### Virtual December Drop-In Days

December 8, 9, 10  
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Further details will be provided  
at a later date

---

## Lay the Foundation for Financial Aid

As of October 1, the **2021-2022** Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) will be available! Before completing the FAFSA, both students *and* parents will need to register for a [Federal Student Aid ID \(FSA ID\)](#), which serves as both a login to the FAFSA and a legal signature. Once created, each FSA ID is verified through the Social Security Administration and can take a few days to be approved. We encourage families to continue to check their email for more details from the Department of Education.



***Applicants for aid in the 2021-2022 school year will need to have access to their 2019 federal tax returns.***

Please note, each college has its own financial aid application requirements. Some colleges will only require families seeking need-based aid to complete the FAFSA; others will also ask for the [CSS Profile](#); others will ask for institutional-specific forms – our seniors and their families need to keep track of required forms and deadlines. Remember, similar to college admissions, financial aid opportunities vary from college to college; what one college may consider when reviewing a file is different from another. As a result, it is difficult to generalize what all colleges will do in a given situation; the answer is often “it depends.” Mr. Weisgold is happy to help senior families with questions specific to financial aid.

---

## Debunking Deferral Myths



Leading into the fall term, families and colleges alike were hearing that the number of students requesting deferrals increased significantly. Concerns regarding these potentially “fewer” spots caused more unrest in an already seemingly unknown process. Brennan Barnard, Director of College Counseling and Outreach at the Derryfield School and the College Program

Advisor at The Making Caring Common project, shares in a [recent article](#) that these initial concerns may not have as much of an impact as families and colleges once thought. If anything, colleges may be more concerned about the volatility of their incoming classes, and as a result, search for *more* students for the Fall 2021 term. Angel Pérez, the CEO of the National Association for College Admission Counselors advises students to “Spend [their] energy on the things [they] can control like thriving in [their] classes and creating a compelling narrative for [their] college applications.”

---

## Couldn't Catch us for Coffee?

Over the last two weeks, the College Counseling Office hosted virtual "Coffees" for parents and guardians. If you couldn't join us, we recorded each session have hyperlinked those presentations for you to view.

[Senior Parent Meeting](#)

[Junior Parent Meeting](#)

[Freshman and Sophomore Parent Meeting](#)



---

## Out-of-Towners in October

As we approach some of the early application deadlines, the college counselors are excited to continue hosting virtual college representative visits. As a reminder, this year, we will offer online visits from college representatives to the **senior class only**. Unlike previous years where students could ask permission to leave class or use their study halls to visit with reps, all of our visits will be online in the late afternoon and early evening hours on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. The following colleges and universities are scheduled to "visit" in October.

In addition to our domestic colleges and universities, many colleges abroad are offering virtual visits, too. In our senior parent coffee, we had a question about Canadian and UK schools. On Tuesday, October 6, 55 Canadian Colleges will be available for the [EduCanada Virtual Fair](#) from 5:00 – 10:00 p.m. Tickets and registration are free.

Reminder: students can find the most up-to-date list in Naviance under "What's New," and should look out for weekly emails from Ms. McKay with dates, times, and links for virtual presentations.

### Tuesday, October 6

4:00 – 4:45 p.m. Washington University in St. Louis  
4:45 – 5:30 p.m. Tulane University  
5:30 – 6:15 p.m. Case Western Reserve University  
6:15 – 7:00 p.m. Muhlenberg College

### Wednesday, October 7

2:00 – 2:30 p.m. Lafayette College  
2:30 – 3:15 p.m. University of Virginia  
3:15 – 4:00 p.m. Dartmouth College  
4:00 – 4:45 p.m. University of Georgia  
4:45 – 5:30 p.m. Bucknell University  
5:30 – 6:15 p.m. Carnegie Mellon University

### Tuesday, October 13

4:00 – 4:45 p.m. Saint Joseph's University  
4:45 – 5:30 p.m. Rice University  
4:45 – 5:30 p.m. Villanova University  
5:30 – 6:15 p.m. Davidson College  
6:15 – 7:00 p.m. Clemson University

### Wednesday, October 14

2:00 – 2:30 p.m. University of Pittsburgh  
2:30 – 3:15 p.m. Emory University  
3:15 – 4:00 p.m. Colgate University  
3:15 – 4:00 p.m. Wake Forest University  
4:00 – 4:45 p.m. New York University  
4:45 – 5:30 p.m. Boston University  
6:15 – 7:00 p.m. Drexel University  
6:15 – 7:00 p.m. University of Michigan



**Tuesday, October 20**

4:00 – 4:45 p.m. Southern Methodist University

4:45 – 5:30 p.m. Duke University

**Wednesday, October 21**

2:00 – 2:30 p.m. University of Vermont

2:30 – 3:15 p.m. Boston College

3:15 – 4:00 p.m. Brandeis University

