

**March
2021**

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

Faculty College Day
Friday, March 19

**University of
Alabama Virtual
Visit**
Friday, March 19
12:05 p.m.
Welcome Center
Conference Room

**College Counseling
Meeting with
Juniors
(Students Only)**
Tuesday, March 23
PAC
12:45 p.m.

**Internship Fair for
Upper School
Students**
Tuesday, March 23
12:05 p.m. - 1:20 p.m.

**Course Registration
Virtual**
Tuesday, March 23
Check your email for
details.

**Anderson
University Virtual
Visit**
Thursday, March 25
12:05 p.m.
Welcome Center
Conference Room

St. David's School

Collegebeat...

An Update from the College Counseling Office

Eight E-mails Better Left Unsent

By Jeff Schiffman, Director of Admission

Tulane University Admissions Blog, March 1, 2021

<http://tuadmissionjeff.blogspot.com/>

I know, I know. Trying to ascertain if a college or university is a good fit for you is a lot different these days. In the absence of real life college visits, college fairs, info sessions and the like, at this point you're reliant on the virtual offerings that colleges and universities are putting out right now. Tune in to as many as you can! On top of those virtual experiences, now's also a time when we're all using email more than we usually do.

Speaking of emails, I read a lot of emails. A lot lot. Like, thousands per week. Our admission team enjoys hearing from students with your questions, your interest in Tulane and your follow-up emails; however, there are eight kinds of emails that admission officers around the country generally bemoan. In the time of coronavirus, I thought it would be a great service to you, the applicant, and to us admission officers to give you all a few tips on emails that you should not send, or at least be very wary of sending. So, here is a list of eight emails to not send to your admission officer. Hope this helps you all as you enter the application process. Selfishly, I know it will help me!

1) hey jeff-

I hope you are doing well! I wanted to let you know that i was differed from tulane. There are a lot of things about tulane that have peaked my interest and I am defiantly sure that it's my top choice college. If you need any additional information from me as the committee reviews my application in regular decision, please let me know.

sincerely,
Name
sent from my iphone

1) Take the time to communicate effectively with your admission counselor. I know it seems like a no brainer, but "i" is a lot different than "I". When emailing with your admission counselor, take the time to write thoughtful, error-free messages. I suggest sitting down at a computer to do these. Don't treat these like text messages. In my years of getting emails from students, I can officially confirm that the two most challenging words for 17-year-olds to get right are "deferred" and "piqued." Also, here's a pro tip: always start your email to an admission staff member with "Dear Mr. or Ms. so-n-so." Then, see how they reply. I'll reply with "Sincerely, Jeff" and that's your cue that it's cool to address me as Jeff. Always take the lead from the admission rep for how formally they want to be addressed. I like to keep it casual, others may be more formal.

2) Dear Mr. Schiffman,

My name is _____ and we met last week. I was really impressed with Tulane! I am interested in double majoring in Political Science with a concentration in Social Justice and Management with your entrepreneurship track. I am a really motivated and dedicated student and I truly believe I will make a great addition to Tulane. I have been place on the waitlist, but I can assure you if you admit me, I will be a strong and mature addition to the Tulane community. If you have any questions, please e-mail me and let me know.

Sincerely,
Name
Bluntz4life@yahoo.com

Continued on Page 2



**Sunday, March 21
1:00-7:00 p.m.**

Register online at:
[https://
virtualcol-
legefairs.org/
events/43/
exhibitors](https://virtualcollegefairs.org/events/43/exhibitors)

Scholarship Highlight

Couch Oil Cares Scholarship

In partnership with the Durham Bulls, Couch Oil Company of Durham is offering six \$1,000 scholarships to Triangle area students who have been accepted into a four-year or community college.

Applications are available online at www.couchoilcompany.com

Deadline is May 28, 2021.

Recipients will be recognized in late July or early August and all COVID-19 guidelines will be followed. Recipients are expected to attend.

Eight E-mails Better Left Unsent *continued*

2) This hasn't been as much of a problem in recent years, but please do create a professional email address to communicate with colleges. Listen, I know the times they are a-changin' and things that used to be illegal are now not. That said, where this comes more into play is your social media presence. Be careful with your Tweets, Snaps, Instas, and TikToks. I honestly don't check them (we don't have the time to troll you, nor do we want to) but remember, all it takes is someone else pressing two buttons and a screenshot is sent to me of you doing something dumb. This happens every single year and is the most frequent reason we [rescind admission](#) at Tulane. It's pretty simple—be a good person on social media (and in life, too). Just be smart, compassionate and good to each other. Think that this would never happen to you? I bet those [Harvard students](#) thought the same thing.

3) I have a few questions about Tulane. Can you tell me your impressions on Tulane? Overall does Tulane offer a great environment? Do students have experiences at Tulane? I am also wondering if Tulane offers students a path to succeed in the future.

Thanks,

3) I really do love replying to your emails, but it gets hard when we get very vague or broad questions that become difficult to respond to. For questions that are not really easy to find out by reading our website, I'd love for you to chat with our incredible team of student interns. They are great and talking to students is literally their job! You can visit [our website](#) and click that green box in the lower right corner to chat (M-F from 8-5.) Or, connect with our amazing team of ambassadors who you can [reach here](#). You should definitely have these kinds of broad questions, but since we do get such a high volume of emails, don't feel the need to email an admission rep just for the sake of emailing us. I read this great story on CNBC that says emails should be [kept to five sentences](#) or less and if you have broad or long-winded questions, it's best to pick up the phone and call. During our social isolation, admission officers and student ambassadors would love to set up FaceTimes or Zoom calls with you. It's the best way to get long lists of questions answered.

On a related note, I'd like to dispel a myth: emailing us plays no role in your admission to Tulane. We don't count the number of times you email us; don't feel pressured to reach out with a question unless you genuinely have one. I once got an email that started "my counselor says I need to email you to demonstrate my interest in Tulane, so I am doing it here." Don't feel like you have to email us if you don't need to, especially with the broad and vague questions. Instead, give us a call or reach out to our students as they truly are our best resource.

4) Hi Jeff –

My name is _____ and I am a junior in high school. You are coming to speak at my school next week! I have a few questions I was hoping you could answer for me.

How big is Tulane?

How easy is it to design my own major?

Do you have a communications department?

What is the student to faculty ratio?

Do you have a creative writing department?

Does Tulane require an essay to apply?

What is the early action deadline?

Do you require interviews at Tulane?

What is the theater department like?

Can you tell me a little bit about club soccer?

Does Tulane have a strong debate team? Do they have a website?

Can I get into James Carville's class?

Do you all have a sailing team?

What is the maximum number of credits I can take in a semester?

Do you require four years of a language?

When is Homecoming?

4) Oh man, okay. Great questions, really! But again, see above on this one. For the most part, you can get the answer to every single one of these questions on our website. We want you to ask us questions, but we also expect that you do your own research as well. There is so much information out there on Tulane, and on school sites in general- use it! When you list out 24 questions on an email to me, it just is not the best use of our time.

5) Dear **Mr. Schiffman**,

I wanted to email you and introduce myself and let you know how interested I am in **Tulane**. As of right now, **Tulane** is my top choice for college. I look forward to meeting you, are you *continued on page 3*

Eight E-mails Better Left Unsent *continued*

able to offer interviews at **Tulane?**

Thanks a lot!

5) I get an email like this every single week, without fail. Don't cut and paste! We can tell! Especially when just the name and school are different. Take the time to send individual emails to each school, even if they say the same thing. We want to know you have taken the time to contact us personally with your questions, especially if you are expressing your interest in our school.

6) Dear Mr. Shiffman,

I am so excited to visit Tulane and New Orleans! I am coming to campus on Sunday afternoon around 3 PM to check it out. Would you be available to meet up for a bit to chat about some questions I have about Tulane?

Thanks so much!

6) This one obviously comes from a time when campus is open for visitors, but, come on! Admission officers have lives, too. I always chuckle when I get requests to meet up on the weekends. I love my job but I like to use my weekends to get out and enjoy NOLA. If you are visiting during our Saturday tour, we'll always have one admission rep on duty to meet and answer your questions. We also offer a great [interview program](#) that you can participate in this summer.

7) Dear Jeff-

It was my pleasure to meet you last week when you visited my high school. I found your presentation to be insightful and provided me with a wealth of information that I will use as I navigate this complex world of college admission. Please accept my most sincere gratitude for the time you spent at Tabor City High School. My early action application will be forthcoming but in the meantime, I want to inquire how many teacher letters of recommendation you request. Please advise.

Warmly,
Tyler Schrute

Mark Schrute | Assistant to the Regional Manager
4559 Charles St. | Scranton, PA
Mark.Schrute@dm.com

7) Admittedly, we really don't know who the emails we get come from. But there are some times when it's just painfully obvious that a parent has written an email posing as their student. Sometimes there are easy clues like a parent's work signature or an email address that is **SmithFamily@aol.com**. It's okay to email me as a parent, it happens all the time! No need to fake it as your kid. [I've blogged about this once before](#). Let them take charge of this process, even if they make a few mistakes along the way. I can't remember a time in life when a 17-year-old used the phrase "please advise."

8) Dear Jeff, Angel, Jillian, and Sierra-

Hope you are doing well! I am interested in learning more about transferring to Tulane and participating in the marching band at Tulane. I am from New York and love the music scene here. Can you tell me how large the band is and do they allow transfer students? I also emailed the band folks about this too. Thanks!

Sincerely,
Karen

8) Choose only one person to direct your email to. We are all here to help, but when we all get one email it's hard to know who is going to reply and ends up just duplicating everyone's work. You can always address your emails to someone and CC anyone you think needs to be in the loop.

Oh and one more thing. Please stop emailing to ask for free shirts. Please. Please.

Don't worry, all of the above are fabricated emails I made. But, they represent real email situations that happen all the time. If you've emailed one of the above to an admission rep in the past, **don't fret**. No big deal. I just want to make sure you put your best foot forward when you apply, and I also want to make the very hectic and very busy lives of college admission staff members a little bit easier. I know it's not easy in this time of isolation, but hopefully these tips on how to best connect with admission reps in this virtual world we are all living in will be helpful.

I'm never one to only look on the negative side and tell you what not to do, so here are my tips for [great questions to ask!](#)

Hope this helps. Email me if you have any questions about it (seriously)!

SAT Test Schedule

Saturday, May 8
Register by 4/8/21

Saturday, June 5
Register by 5/6/21

ACT Test Schedule

Tuesday, March 16
St. David's will administer ACT to juniors and sophomores
***check your email for details**

Saturday, April 17
Register by 3/12/21

Saturday, June 12
Register by 5/7/21

Saturday, July 17
Register by 6/18/21

Reminder!

SAT Subject Tests have been discontinued in the United States, and will be discontinued internationally after June 2021.

Additionally, the College Board will no longer offer the SAT with Essay.

2021 AP Exam Schedule *Please Note Changes*

Week 1

	Morning - 8:00 a.m.	Afternoon - 2:00 p.m.
Monday, May 3	US Government and Politics	Physics C: E&M
Tuesday, May 4	Calculus AB Calculus BC	
Wednesday, May 5	English Literature	
Thursday, May 6	United States History	Art History Computer Science Programming
Friday, May 7	Chemistry	

Week 2

	Morning - 8:00 a.m.	Afternoon - 12:30 p.m.
Monday, May 10	French	Macroeconomics
Tuesday, May 11	Spanish	Latin
Wednesday, May 12	English Composition	Microeconomics
Thursday, May 13	No exams scheduled per College Board*	
Friday, May 14	Biology	Environmental Science
Monday, May 17	Computer Science Principles*	Statistics*

Registration for AP exams ended November 2. If you registered to take an exam but no longer wish to take it, please notify College Counseling. **The last day to submit digital portfolios for AP Art and Design and AP Computer Science Principles in Thursday, May 20.*



ST. DAVID'S SCHOOL

FAITH · VIRTUE · KNOWLEDGE

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