



College Counseling Crier

October 2021

Volume 5, Issue 2

Upcoming Standardized Test Dates

[ACT Test Dates*](#)

October 23, 2021
*The registration
deadline has passed*

December 11, 2021
*Registration deadline:
November 5*

[SAT Test Dates*](#)

November 6, 2021
*Registration deadline:
October 8*

December 4, 2021
*Registration deadline:
November 4*

**If you will be taking these tests
with accommodations, please
contact [Mrs. From](#)*

Olympic Gymnastics and College Counseling

Throughout the year and in our archived editions of the *Crier*, you will see various links from Georgia Tech's Admissions Blog. Rick Clark, Director of Undergraduate Admission continues to write salient and relatable articles about the higher education landscape. In "[How the Olympics Explain College Admission – Part I](#)," Clark splits admissions into one of two categories: Formulaic Admissions, comparable to the High Jump, and Holistic Admission Review, comparable to gymnastics. The biggest takeaway? As Clark describes,



*"Before you ever submit an application to a college using holist review, take the time to write down or say out loud that you are **intentionally** competing in gymnastics, rather than the high jump. **You are choosing a nuanced, gray, and subjective competition and evaluation, and you are comfortable with the fact that the numbers alone will not dictate your results.**"*

Seniors, Keep Your Applicants "Womp Womp"-Free!

"We are all human, errors are bound to happen." Grace Marshall, an Associate Director at Tufts University informs readers about application faux pas in her recent blog post, "['Womp womp' moments in college admissions.](#)" These easy-to-avoid slip-ups include, supplement slip-ups, ghosting the alumni interview, and senioritis. We encourage all seniors to follow Marshall's advice and take advantage of time spent with their college counselors.

Preparing for the PSAT/NMSQT (for 10th and 11th grade)

On Wednesday, **October 13**, our sophomores and juniors will sit for the College Board-sponsored PSAT. For sophomores, this is solely a *practice* to help them get

Save the Dates

**PSAT for 10th grade
and
PSAT/NMSQT
(National Merit
Scholarship
Qualifying Test) for
11th grade**

**Wed., October 13
8:00 a.m.**

December Drop-In Days

**Tues., December 7
Wed., December 8
Thurs., December 9
9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

used to the format of a standardized testing environment; for our juniors, this also serves as the National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test.

We ask that sophomores and juniors arrive at the Athletic Center by 7:45 a.m. – we will wait for the buses to arrive before administering the exams. Students need to bring:

- Two sharpened, non-mechanical #2 pencils with erasers *or* a separate eraser
- A calculator with fresh, working batteries. [Approved calculators](#) include those our students most often use here at Bullis
- A drink and a snack
- We also recommend a non-smart watch – the CollegeBoard only permits us to share a few specific pacing reminders with students and there is *no* clock in either gym



As a reminder, students who are not present for the PSAT/NMSQT are not permitted to participate in afternoon sports or activities that afternoon.

If you/your student has accommodations approved by the College Board, you should have received emails from Ms. From regarding pre-registrations and testing locations. If you have not received emails from [Ms. From](#), and think you have or should have College Board accommodations, please reach out to her directly.

Other Events on October 13 (for 9th and 12th grades)

On Wednesday, October 13, while our sophomores and juniors are sitting for the PSAT and PSAT/NMSQT, our ninth-grade students will be in workshops directed by Mr. Mosteller, our Ninth Grade Dean. Be on the lookout for more communication from him directly.

Our seniors will have the opportunity to have two uninterrupted hours to work on their college applications and meet with their college counselors from 10:00 a.m. until noon(ish). Seniors will hear from their college counselor to sign up for one-on-one time. Below are the meeting locations for each of the college counselors:

Ms. Belcher: North Hall, Rooms 106 and 108

Mrs. Kittel: North Hall, Rooms 102 and 104

Mrs. Miller: North Hall, Rooms 110 and 115

Mr. Weisgold: North Hall, Rooms 210 and 215

Financing the Future

As of October 1, the **2022-2023** 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 1-3 days to be approved. We encourage families to continue to check their email for more details.

The Department of Education has compiled guided, [helpful tips](#) along the way for families to use as they complete the filing process.

Applicants for aid in the 2022-2023 school year will need to have access to their 2020 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.

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.

Couldn't Catch us for (at-home) Coffee?

Over the last two weeks, the College Counseling Office hosted virtual grade level-specific programs for parents and guardians. If you couldn't join us and didn't see an email from Mr. Weisgold, please email [Ms. McKay](#), include your student's name and grade level, and she will email you a copy of the recording.

Out-of-Towners on Campus in October

Since September, the College Counseling team has offered in-person and online visits from college representatives. These meetings allow our students to get to know more about specific programs and give colleges and universities an idea of the Bullis experience.

Seniors are welcome to come to meetings (with permission 24-hours in advance from their teachers). If a school from a senior's list is not visiting, we encourage

students to take advantage of online information sessions and direct connections through the college or university.

The list of visitors, found below, will also be posted on Naviance in the “What’s New” column of the homepage. Additionally, as long as colleges are included on students’ “Colleges I’m thinking about” or “Colleges I’m applying to” lists in Naviance, students will get an email notifying them of the upcoming visit. The visits are for **senior students only**; we ask that no parents or guardians join these conversations. A college counselor will always be present to moderate. Unless otherwise specified, all meetings with the college admission representatives (either virtual or in person) will be held in the College Counseling Office. Please note, this list is updated regularly and is subject to change. Previous visitors this month included:

Rollins College	Skidmore College	Washington and Lee University
Marist College	Mount St. Mary’s University	Brandy University
Trinity College	University of Mary	Sarah Lawrence College
Dickinson College	Washington	Rider University
Lafayette College	IE University – Madrid	Widener University
DePauw University	Chapman University	Hamilton College

The most up-to-date information can be found in Naviance on the homepage under the “What’s New” column. Below is a list of future visitors this month:

Thursday, October 7

Ursinus College
College of Charleston
Clemson University
University of Cincinnati
Boston College
Babson College

Friday, October 8

University of San Francisco
Hampden-Sydney College
Moravian College
University of Southern California

Monday, October 11

East Carolina University
Paul Smiths College of Arts and Science
George Mason University

Tuesday, October 12

Lynn University
Drexel University
York College of Pennsylvania
Virginia Tech
Savannah College of Art & Design

Wednesday, October 13

Stony Brook University
Moore College of Art and Design

Thursday, October 14

Merrimack College
Washington University in St. Louis
Assumption University
Kenyon College
Boston University

Friday, October 15

Haverford College
Spelman College
Washington College

Monday, October 18

Goldsmiths University of London
University of Miami
College of William & Mary

Tuesday, October 19

Denison University
Hobart William Smith Colleges
Hofstra University
Southern Methodist University

Wednesday, October 20

Baylor University
Catholic University of America
Connecticut College

Tuesday, October 26

Lehigh University
Vanderbilt University
Penn State University
Loyola University Maryland
Montgomery College

Wednesday, October 27

Rochester Institute of Technology
Syracuse University

Thursday, October 28

Miami University – Oxford
Providence College
Northeastern University
Eckerd College
St. John's University – New York

