

COLLEGE COUNSELING LOOKING FORWARD

Grades 9, 10, 11 Parents
November 1, 2021

Goals of College Counseling

- Help students assess educational and extra-curricular goals and abilities.
- Help students find the best “match” for their goals, interests, and values.
- Introduce useful resources to families.
- Advise students on the college application process.

College Admissions Updates

- Most colleges remain test optional (not requiring the SAT or the ACT); some are test blind
- The most selective colleges became more selective; but a wide array of colleges didn't fill their classes
- College admissions: returning to normal or is this the new normal?
- Admission directors express understanding of students' altered academics, lost opportunities, and challenging personal and family situations

College Counseling Updates

- Last year - six courses; block system; grading and GPA calculation remained the same
- Thayer Profile – explanation of changes
- 85% of seniors are applying Early Action or Early Decision (Nov. deadline); Early Decision applications still down a little
- College representative meetings return to campus
- Consider student mental health

What can students do now?

- Grades matter - in every year of high school
- Take challenging courses but don't overdo it
- Connect with your teachers
- Discover/develop/sustain passions
- Athletic/Arts preparation
- Read – in your areas of interest
- Online college research (more robust offerings available on college websites now!)

College Research

- Online research - virtual tours; online information sessions; one-on-one meetings with college representatives; panel discussions with college community members
- On campus visits - still might be restrictions
- For younger students, keep it low-key

For Freshmen

- Focus on Schoolwork
- Develop strong study skills and habits
- Find the appropriate level of courses
- Experiment with activities
- Read!

CWRA (9th Grade)

- College and Work Readiness Assessment
- To assess the efficiency of the school program, not the strength of a student
- Performance task based
- Measures problem solving skills, writing effectiveness and mechanics, critical thinking, analysis, scientific and quantitative reasoning, etc.

For Sophomores

Meetings with Advisors & College Counselors:

- Scoir account & career exploration
- Academic assessment & course planning
- Making the most of Thayer opportunities

Academics, Arts, Athletics, Leadership, Service

Sophomores - Testing

- October PSAT scores available in December
- Practice exams with Summit Educational

PSAT (10th and 11th)

- Evidence-based Reading and Writing / Math
- For practice (SAT)
- For diagnosis of strengths & weaknesses
- Scholarship qualification (11th only)
- Scores available electronically – Dec. 6th

College Planning Resources

- ❑ Accessible to all PSAT-takers
- ❑ Interactive score report with answer explanations
- ❑ Personalized SAT preparation through khanacademy.org/sat
- ❑ College and Career-Planning Tools

For Juniors

- College counseling meeting for parents: **Jan. 10, 6 p.m.**
- Meetings with students start in January
- Small groups & Individual conferences
- Scoir accounts
- Summit Educational Group – ACT & SAT prep options offered on campus starting in January (email announcement to arrive around Thanksgiving)
- Revolution Prep – ACT & SAT prep options online
- ACT Practice test (optional) – December 5th
- Virtual College Fairs

Testing Options and Timeline

Traditional timeline for Juniors:

- SAT: March, May, June, August
- ACT: February, April, June, July

Currently, most U.S. colleges do not require standardized tests. (current exceptions = Florida and Georgia state schools)

Resources for Parents & Students

- Thayer Academy College Counseling Handbook
- Website (www.thayer.org)
- Twitter: TACollegeCounseling@PulsiferCCC
- Email broadcasts and Tiger News Network
- College Websites
- Guidebooks
- College visitors in College Counseling Office/ online
- Visit college campuses/ virtual tours and information sessions
- Contact the college counselors!

College Counseling Liaisons

9th Grade

Sarah Miller smiller@thayer.org

Nellie Brennan Hall nbrennanhall@thayer.org

10th Grade

Thad Robey trobey@thayer.org

11th Grade

Christine Woods cwoods@thayer.org