

Introduction to College Counseling

For Junior Class, Parents & Guardians
January 10, 2022

College Counseling Goals

- Help students assess their educational and extra-curricular goals and abilities
- Help students find the best match between the resources and opportunities available at colleges and the students' goals and abilities
- Help students complete effective applications in a timely manner

College Admission Panel

- Jennifer Cluett, Worcester Polytechnic Institute
- Kyle Smith, Trinity College
- Cindy Cordova, Boston College
- Mike Drish, UMass Amherst



Calendar: Remainder of junior year

- January & April: College Counseling Classroom Sessions
- January-May: students should meet individually with their college counselor; parents invited to meet, too.
- February-June: research colleges; visit campuses when safe and possible; take standardized tests
- May-June: work with college counselor to hone list of colleges, prepare for interviews & applications
- Summer: continue to research and visit college campuses
- Summer: College essay preparation – workshops

College Counseling

Classroom Sessions & Advisory Meetings

- SCOIR – online resource, college research, application submission
- Self-assessment/Resume
- Thayer College Counseling Handbook – online access
- Overview of the college search process
- Overview of the admissions process (including information on the SAT and ACT)
- Create Common Application accounts
- Highlight helpful resources

State of Standardized Testing

- **Class of 2022:** 80% of four-year institutions were test-optional
- **Class of 2023:** As of right now, 60% of four-year institutions are test-optional; that number is expected to increase when we enter the next admission cycle.

Testing Dates

Test dates for SAT:

- March 12 (Reg. deadline 2/11)
- May 7 (Reg. deadline 4/8)
- June 4 (Reg. deadline 5/5)

Test dates for ACT:

- February 12 (Reg. deadline 1/7)
- April 2 (Reg. deadline 2/25)
- June 11 (Reg. deadline 5/6)
- July 16 (Reg. deadline 6/17)

Test Prep Options

Self-study

- Khan Academy/College Board
- ACT Website (ACT Academy)

Test prep companies and tutors

Thayer options

- Summit courses for April ACT and May SAT
- Revolution Prep: online prep for SAT and ACT exams

Resources: Building Relationships

- Your College Counselor
- Colleges - mailing lists; In-person or virtual campus visits (tours, info sessions, interviews, panels); social media.
- BISCCA college fair - 4/24 at Babson College
- [NACAC Virtual College Fairs](#)
- Meetings with admission officers at Thayer next fall

Resources:

Books & Online Services

- College Counseling Handbook – online version available in parent section and student portal of Thayer website.
- Scoir - college research, document submission
- Guidebooks, i.e. *Fiske Guide to the Colleges*, *Yale Insider's Guide*, *Colleges That Change Lives*
- College websites- including virtual tours, panels, and information sessions
- Twitter – TACollegeCounseling

College Resources: Cost & Value

- Net Price Calculators (all college websites)
- Myintution.com (quick college cost estimator)
- Collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard (average cost, loan amount, loan default rate, and graduation rate for colleges)
- Salary.com
- Collegerealitycheck.com (side-by-side comparisons of college data – debt repayment and earnings, graduation rate, net price)
- Scholarships: Goingmerry.com, Scholarships.com, Fastweb.com

Contact Us

College Counselors

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