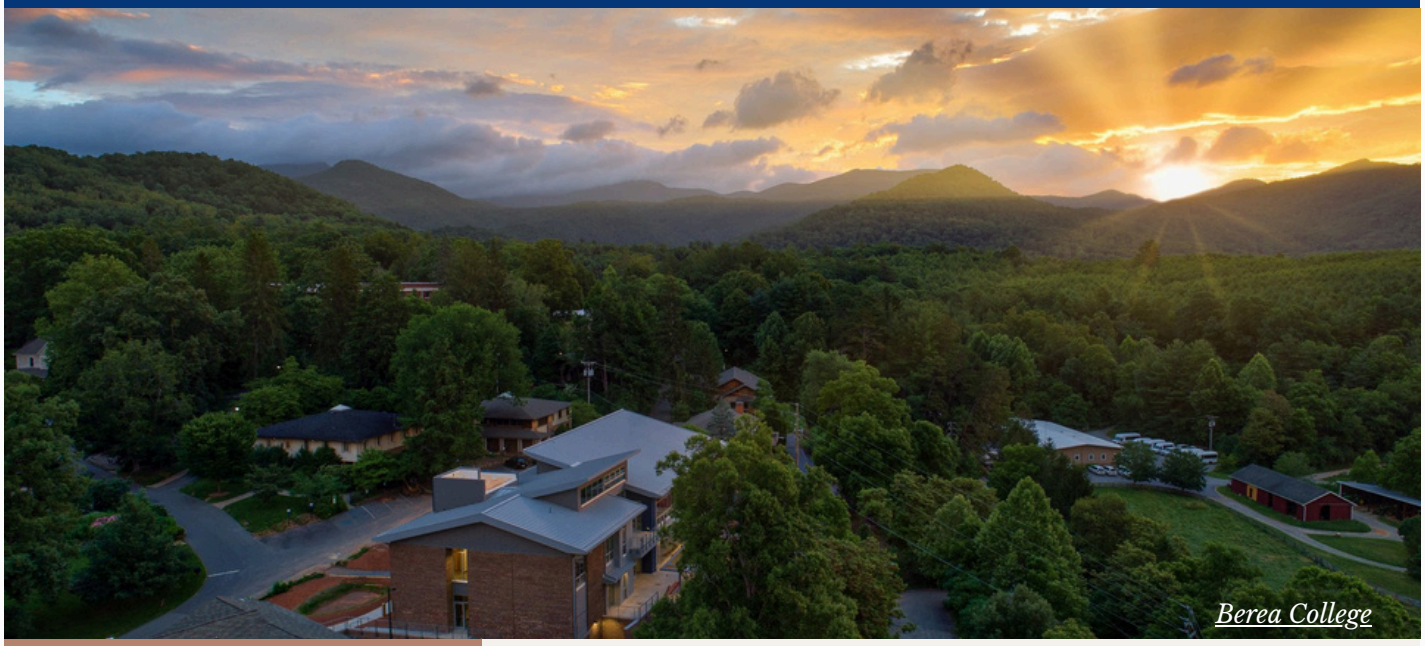
JUNE 2026 | ISSUE 2

SOLEBURY.EDU

COLLEGE COUNSELING NEWSLETTER



Berea College

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What's Next?

Tips for a Successful Summer

You've made it through your junior year at Solebury. Congratulations! Summer is a great time to recharge, relax, and reset for senior year. Keep in mind that colleges like to see students making the most of these months, too, whether it is **working, volunteering, taking a course, or enrolling in a college summer program**. *What will fill your bucket this summer?*

You've already had several opportunities to begin your college search: fall visits from colleges, the college course, self-reflection through your student questionnaire, and individual meetings. Now that summer is here, visiting colleges can be a great idea. Whether you schedule a formal tour and information session, or simply walk their campus on a sunny day, seeing a college in person can tell you a lot about whether or not it could be a good fit for you. Take notes as you visit, so that you can look back on them.

At this point in the process, you should have a general list of schools that you are considering. Use this as a springboard to your college visits. Prepare some questions in advance, check out the school's web site, and look for ways to show them that you are interested. Often the interest that you show in a school is reciprocated when it comes time to make a decision.

Chances are, many of the schools that you might visit over the summer will want to visit us in the fall. Ask them if they have us on their schedule, and if not, we may be able to request a visit. Meeting with college representatives on our campus is another way for you to show them how interested you are. This interest can go a long way in helping you in the admissions process.

Still building your college list? Feeling overwhelmed about the number of schools out there? Schedule a meeting with us! We would love to spend time brainstorming and talking through what your next chapter could look like.

Student Questionnaires | Juniors received their own copy of the student questionnaire in December. Many thanks to those of you who completed and returned this form, as they help us get to know you better. If you have not yet handed in your questionnaire, please get it to us as soon as possible. You can find a copy here.

Individual Meetings | Erin will be spending the summer writing recommendation letters, planning for the fall, visiting colleges, and attending conferences. Please don't hesitate to schedule a meeting with her, whether it is virtually or here on campus. And she looks forward to connecting with each of you again in the fall to hear about your summer, review your college list, discuss classes, and support you with applications.

Standardized Testing | Colleges consider a variety of factors in their decision-making, and may include standardized tests as one part of that. We would encourage you to take either the SAT or the ACT. While pretty much every college accepts both tests, the SAT is more widely known on the coasts, and the ACT is more prevalent in the Midwest. Test scores are merely one of many factors that go into the admissions process. In fact, more than 80% of colleges in the US are "test optional" (visit fairtest.org for a complete list).

It is not uncommon for students to raise their test average from their junior to their senior year, sometimes substantially. Some of it comes with being fresh coming off of summer break, some from being familiar with the test, and some from having a better understanding of the subject matter. There may be other factors as well, such as taking test prep courses.

College Athletics| In order to be considered for Division I or Division II athletics, you must register with the NCAA Initial Eligibility Center here. You must also arrange to send your transcripts from prior high schools (if you transferred to Solebury) and SAT/ACT scores to the NCAA (their code is 9999); the NCAA will not accept these from Solebury! We will need to know if you plan to register with the NCAA, so that we can send a transcript there this summer. Note that the NCAA Initial Eligibility Center does not apply to Division III athletics.

The Application | You've learned a whole lot about Common App, accepted by over 1,000 colleges. While Common App is the most popular application, over 170 institutions are part of the Coalition for College application, now linked through Scoir. These schools are committed to access, affordability, academic outcomes, student success, and belonging for all students. Coalition for College was founded in 2015, you can learn more about its mission, vision, and member schools, here.

Some colleges may not be on either application, so please check their admission pages for more information. And regardless of which platform you choose, the *summer is a great time to start working on your application*. Getting a head start on all those questions will pay off when you're juggling classes, activities, and maybe even a part-time job in the fall.

Common App tip: The application will reset on August 1, and it is possible that college-specific questions will change. We would encourage you to work on the main body of the application first. You can certainly begin to add in the colleges you are considering and take a look at their supplements, but keep in mind that they may be adjusted on the 26/27 launch date of August 1.

Test Prep

- Test prep resources from our friends at Revolution Prep!
- Free practice offered by College Board
- Practice by ACT

Stay tuned for updates on next year's test prep offerings right here at Solebury!

*Upcoming Test Dates**

ACT | July 11

Late registration closes June 24 Later test dates include September 19 and October 17. Register here.

SAT | August 22

Registration is open to all students for all dates in the 2025-2026 testing year. Later test datesd include September 12 and October 3.
Register here.

*Solebury does not register students for these tests.



Summer Reading

Here are a few books that would be great company on your summer beach vacation, road trip, or porch sit!

Dream School: Finding the College That's Right for You by Jeffrey Selingo

Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania by Frank Bruni

College Essay Essentials: A Step-by-Step Guide to Writing a Successful College Admissions Essay by Ethan Sawyer

The Best Kind of College: An Insiders' Guide to America's Small Liberal Arts Colleges by Susan McWilliams and John E. Seery

AI in College Admissions

Use your voice.

Thinking about using AI to help you with your application? *Think again.*

With the access to AI tools at our fingertips, a student's authentic voice has never been so powerful in a college application as it is today. In the words of Karen Richardson, Dean of Admissions at Princeton: *AI is not inherently "bad", but I caution against it in your college application. First and foremost, I guarantee that any essay one writes with the help of AI is not going to be nearly as good or authentic as one that an applicant composes on their own.* Read the full article here. And from Caltech: *Your essays are where we hear your voice. Relying on AI, specifically large language models such as ChatGPT or Bard, to craft your essay will dilute your unique expression and perspective.*

If that isn't enough, Common App requires that you sign this Affirmation Statement: *I certify that all information submitted in the admission process — including this application and any other supporting materials — is my own work, factually true, and honestly presented.*

College Fly-In Programs

Apply Now!

Some colleges and universities offer fully-funded visits to their campus, known as fly-in programs. This resource is intended particularly for first-generation students, those from under-served communities and diverse backgrounds, and students who otherwise wouldn't be able to visit schools. We've shared some amazing ones below. Feel free to reach out to us if you'd like help applying!

Voices of Tufts	*Tufts University | Medford, MA*
LEADs at Emory University	*Emory University | Atlanta, GA*
CMC Fall Preview Program	*Claremont McKenna College | Claremont, CA*
Explore Bowdoin	*Bowdoin College | Brunswick, ME*
SOAR Program	*Rice University | Houston, TX*
Windows on Williams	*Williams College | Willamstown, MA*

Final Thoughts

What's Next?

Choosing a college is not easy. But it can be fun! We recognize that this is a lot of work and are here to support you every step of the way. We hope that you are able to enjoy rest and relaxation this summer, with some college visits and essay writing, too. Erin is here in the office for most of the summer, so don't hesitate to reach out! We wish you a wonderful start to your summer!

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Solebury College Counseling Web Page

CEEB/ACT Code: 392955

Check out our handbook!

