



COLLEGE & CAREER BULLETIN

January 26, 2021

TESTING UPDATES:

The College Board announced two major updates last week:

SAT Subject Tests will no longer be offered, effective immediately. If you are registered to take a Subject Test, you will automatically have your registration canceled and receive a refund.

They will be discontinuing the Essay portion of the SAT after the June 2021 test administration. Students who are registered for the SAT with Essay in Spring 2021 can still take it OR can cancel the Essay portion at any time, free of charge.

Check out their official statement [here](#) and their FAQ [here](#).

Test-optional updates:

[Amherst Test-Optional Pilot](#) (will extend to 2023)

[Adelphi to Remain Test Optional for Admissions for the Coming Year](#)

[Columbia: One-Year Extension of Test-Optional Admissions for 2021-2022](#)

[Cornell University has suspended the SAT/ACT requirement for 2021 and 2022 applicants](#)

[Penn State announces extension of test-optional admissions process through 2023](#)

[Williams: Extending our Test-Optional Admission Pilot \(through 2023\)](#)

“All of the 1,070 colleges and universities that did not require ACT/SAT scores pre-pandemic will continue to do for Fall 2022 applicants. Of the 600+ additional schools that unveiled test-optional waivers for Fall 2021 in the last 10 months, at least 130 announced that those policies will extend for multiple years, or in many cases, permanently. **Thus, you can be certain that at least 1,200 4-year colleges and universities will be ACT/SAT optional for Fall 2022 applicants – that’s more than half of all such schools in the U.S.**” - Robert Schaeffer of FairTest.org.

SAT/ACT Registration: Below, you’ll find the links to register for SAT and ACT exams. We encourage students to sign up well in advance of the registration deadline, as many testing sites are filling up early.

[SAT Registration](#)

[ACT Registration](#)

* We intend to offer an in-school SAT for the Junior class in April. More details and registration are forthcoming.

CLASS UPDATES:

SENIORS

* Please let your counselor know when you hear back from colleges! We want to be there to support you and celebrate with you through this process. Students should also update their decisions in Naviance.

* After submitting, check to make sure that your applications are complete. Most colleges will send you an email with instructions to set up an applicant portal, where you can see what documents they have received. (Note that it often takes 1-2 weeks for documents to appear on the portal).

* The [Ivy League Common Notification date](#) for this year will be Tuesday, April 6. As [Princeton says](#), “The change in date is a result of increased applications across the League and our commitment to thoughtful review of all candidates.” Stanford has also pushed back their decision release date to April 9. Because of the later decision notification date, all of the Ivies and Stanford have extended their reply by date to May 3.

* Check out [How to Stay Admitted](#), by Tulane University. A good reminder to keep your grades up and think before you act – or post online!

* Need advice on how to write a great letter of continued interest? Check out [this guide and example](#), by the College Essay Guy.

JUNIORS

* Review the [MLHS College Application Timeline](#).

* Junior College Planning Meetings have begun! Email your School Counselor to schedule a meeting – which should take place during a free period. As an additional resource, you can schedule an appointment with our College and Career Counselor, Mrs. Nicholson, after your initial college planning meeting.

* Check out Tulane University’s tips on the college process: [Junior Tips Part I: Start Here](#)

* Familiarize yourself with college terms. Check out USC’s [Handy-Dandy Glossary of College Lingo](#).

* Check out the “Other Resources” section for guides on international admission, gap years, and athletes.

FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES

* Check out this guide by USC: [Too Early to Apply? A Freshman and Sophomore High School Guide to Preparing Your College Application](#)

Key tips: Start study skills early. Choose your classes carefully. Take your schoolwork seriously and make efforts to continue earning strong grades. Be active in your community. And, remember that building relationship with teachers is important.

* You, too, may find USC’s [Handy-Dandy Glossary of College Lingo](#) helpful.

UPCOMING MLHS EVENTS:

January 30: *Practice ACT exam, hosted by the Princeton Review.* Sign up to take a full-length practice ACT. This is a **VIRTUAL** and **REMOTE** event, and is open to students of all grade levels. On February 3, they will host a follow up session where representatives from the Princeton Review will discuss how to interpret your results and how to compare these to your PSAT scores. Registration is available [HERE](#). Contact our Princeton Review representative if you have any questions: Ms. Iannucci, Nicole.Iannucci@review.com.

February 2: *Instant Decision Day with Dominican College.* Sign up to meet with an Admission Counselor, who will review your application and provide you with an instant decision! Admitted students will also receive scholarship information that day. Seniors with a 2.5+ GPA are eligible to sign up. Contact Mrs. Nicholson for registration and more information. Your application fee will be waived for participating in the event.

February 7: *Practice SAT exam, hosted by C2 Education.* Sign up to take a practice SAT. This is a **VIRTUAL** and **REMOTE** event, and is open to students of all grade levels. Registration is available [HERE](#). They will email you an online test link and code on 2/6. You can connect to the test at any time convenient for you on 2/7. Afterwards, participants will receive a FREE C2 review of practice test results to know exactly where to focus efforts for the real test. Contact C2 Education if you have any questions: parsippany@c2educate.com.

February 9: *Instant Decision Day with County College of Morris.* Students will meet with an Admissions Counselor to discuss the admissions process, your program of study, and placement testing. Students must submit their CCM application at least two days prior to the event. Participating students receive a free application waiver: IDDMOUNTAINLAKES21. To register for the Virtual Instant Decision Day, please email Mrs. Nicholson by February 1.

** Please note that the practice SAT and ACT exams are FREE events (no commitment required) hosted through the Princeton Review and C2 Education. The offering of these tests is not an endorsement or support of their services. We want to extend every opportunity for our students to explore and practice these tests, so we take advantage of these offerings.*

* Missed any Guidance Presentations? Check out our [YouTube channel](#) for recordings.

OTHER COLLEGE/CAREER EVENTS:

January 31: The *National Association for College Admission Counseling* (NACAC) is hosting four virtual college fairs over the next few months, with the first on 1/31. Over 500 colleges will be in attendance. To register, visit [this link](#).

Not sure what to ask at a college fair? See a list of questions on the last page of the Bulletin!

February 3: The *Atlantic Health System* is hosting a virtual *Traditional and Non-Traditional Healthcare Careers* series. During the event, students will have the opportunity to learn more about the diverse careers that Atlantic Health System offers. Panelists include a Pediatric Gastroenterologist, a Pharmacist, a member of the Information Technology Team, and a Social Worker. Register [here](#).

OTHER RESOURCES:

[An Insider's Timeline to Navigating College Applications](#), by Main Line Today

[FAFSA Simplification Changes Which Parent Must File The FAFSA](#), by Forbes

[Gap Year Resources](#), by the Gap Year Association

[Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete](#), by the NCAA

[Guide to International University Admission](#), by the National Association of College Admission Counseling (NACAC)

[How it Works: Applying to a UK University or College](#), by UCAS

[Light in the Darkness](#), by Georgia Tech

[SUNY college applications plummet 20 percent amid COVID-19](#), by the New York Post. While there has been a lot of focus on highly selective colleges who've seen large application increases, many schools – including SUNY, the largest system of public higher education in the country – have actually seen a decrease.

[The Blueprint For Your College Search](#), by Forbes

[The Ins and Outs of the Alumni Interview](#), by Tufts

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

MLHS Awards:

The Home & School Association is proud to offer Financial Aid Scholarships to Mountain Lakes High School seniors to assist with college expenses. The application is available [HERE](#). Apply by April 26.

Junior Laker Basketball is pleased to announce the awarding of scholarships in the amounts of both \$750 and \$300 to two graduating female seniors and two graduating male seniors of MLHS. Requirements for applicants are participation in JLB program as a youth in Mountain Lakes, a 1-2 page essay, and a one page letter of recommendation from someone who can attest to the student's qualities. See applications attached.

Morris County / NJ Scholarships:

200 Club of Morris County Scholarship provides assistance to children of active public safety personnel. Eligibility is limited to high school seniors serving in a Morris County branch of public safety or whose parent is actively serving or retired from a public safety capacity in Morris County. Scholarships will be awarded on a one-time basis for the 2021-2022 academic year. Award criteria includes academic performance, community service, extracurricular activities and financial need. [Apply by](#) February 15.

Arlene Persson Memorial Scholarship: The Rockaway Valley Garden Club is awarding a scholarship of up to \$1,000 to a graduating senior from Boonton, Mountain Lakes, Morris Hills, Morris Knolls High Schools, Morris Catholic, Morris County School of Technology, The Craig School or matriculated in the County College of Morris Landscape and Horticultural Program. This scholarship rewards demonstrated effort and interest in horticulture or and/or environmental initiatives within school or community by the applicant. Please note that the deadline for application and transcript submission is April 1. Contact Mrs. Nicholson for a copy of the application.

EMS Council of NJ Scholarship: The Sixth District of the EMS Council of New Jersey has voted to award

scholarships to graduating seniors. The recipients of this award must either be members or directly related to members of the first aid squads that make up the Sixth District (for a list of member squads, click [HERE](#)). Applicants must contact the Guidance Office by February 22 so we can submit a copy of your transcript. [Applications](#) are due on February 28.

Frank Baldachino Essay Scholarship will recognize the distinguished scholastic, leadership and sportsmanship attributes of high school student-athletes, and the importance of high school athletics in each student's life. Essay Topic: "How High School Athletics has impacted my Life." [Apply by](#) February 1.

Junior League of Morristown will recognize the outstanding community service of high school seniors by awarding up to four \$2,500 college scholarships. The primary criterion for the scholarship is outstanding dedication to voluntarism and community service. Financial need is not a factor for consideration. Applicants must reside or currently attend school in Morris or Somerset Counties. Completed applications must be received by February 19. Learn more [here](#).

Lou Manzione Scholarship: The Atlantic Amateur Hockey Association is pleased to offer a \$1,000 scholarship to a NJ high school senior. [Applications](#) are due by February 1.

NJACAC High School Scholarship Award: NJACAC will award four \$1250 scholarships for 2021 high school graduates who will be attending a 2- or 4-year post-secondary institution. [Apply by](#) March 1.

Outside Scholarships:

A Salute to Engineering Writing Contest: Students in grades 3-12 are eligible to apply and can win up to \$500. Applicant must submit an essay that salutes engineering's role in meeting and defeating the challenges presented by COVID-19. Learn more [here](#). Apply by February 1.

Amazon Future Engineer Scholarship assists high school seniors who have completed a computer science course and plan to continue their education by attaining a bachelor's degree in computer science, software engineering, computer engineering or other computer science related field of study. Recipients of the award receive \$10,000 at an accredited four-year college or

university as well as a paid summer internship at Amazon after their freshman year of college. [Apply by](#) February 18.

Association of Women in Mathematics Essay Contest: Contest is open to students in grades 6-12 and undergraduate students. Student must submit an essay based on an interview with a woman currently working in a mathematical career. [Apply by](#) February 1.

DAR Scholarships: Each year the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) awards multiple scholarships to students showing dedication to the pursuit of higher education. [Apply by](#) January 31.

Harriet Fitzgerald Scholarship: The Sunflower Initiative will award another Harriet Fitzgerald Scholarship in the amount of \$10,000 to a woman who in the Fall 2021 term will begin attending an undergraduate women's college in the U.S. or Canada. Learn more [here](#). Deadline to apply is February 1.

(ISC)² Women's Scholarship offers scholarships from \$1,000-\$6,000 per recipient. Applicants must be female and pursuing or planning to pursue a degree with a focus on cybersecurity, information assurance or related field, and be a high school senior, undergraduate or graduate student. A minimum 3.3 GPA is required. [Apply by](#) February 22.

Jackie Robinson Foundation Scholarship: Provides scholarships of up to \$30,000 over four years to minority high school seniors showing leadership potential and demonstrating financial need to attend an accredited 4-year college or university of their choice. Learn more [here](#). Apply by February 1.

Jimmy Rane Foundation Scholarships: Scholarships are open to high school seniors and current college freshmen and sophomores. Students will be selected based on academic excellence, community involvement, leadership skills, awards and honors, and financial need. Winners will receive up to \$5,000. [Apply by](#) February 5.

Society of Manufacturing Engineers Scholarship: High school seniors looking for scholarships for college can apply for over 30 scholarships from the SME Education Foundation. If you're planning a career in manufacturing (manufacturing engineering, technology, or closely related field), apply [HERE](#). Applications are due by February 1.

FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION:

* The [FAFSA](#) must be completed if you are applying for need-based financial aid. Review these resources for help on preparing for, completing, and submitting the FAFSA: [FAFSA Help](#), [FAFSA Process](#), [12 Common FAFSA Mistakes](#), [Instructions on how to list more than 10 colleges](#)

* Check to see if your colleges also require the [CSS Profile](#). See [this guide](#) for help on completing it.

* See upcoming changes to the FAFSA:

[FAFSA's Expected Family Contribution Is Going Away. Good Riddance](#)
[Pandemic Relief Package Simplifies FAFSA](#)
[FAFSA Simplification Changes Which Parent Must File The FAFSA](#)

SUMMER PROGRAMS:

It is not too early to be thinking about summer! More opportunities will be shared in each Bulletin. See *previously listed opportunities* [HERE](#).

Babson Summer Study is a 3.5-week experiential program (currently online-only) for rising high school juniors and seniors to develop as entrepreneurial leaders. [Apply by](#) March 1.

Kenyon Young Writers takes place entirely online this summer with three workshops designed to help high school students become better, more productive writers and more insightful thinkers. [Apply by](#) March 1.

Stevens Pre-College Programs: Stevens offers 11 different programs, ranging from business to game design and engineering. All programs will be virtual this summer. The priority deadline is March 1. Learn more [here](#).

The Summer Science Program offers teens an exhilarating and inspiring immersion into hands-on experimental science. SSP immerses students in collaborative research in either Astrophysics (at Univ. of Colorado Boulder or New Mexico Tech) or Biochemistry (at Purdue or Indiana University). The deadline to [apply](#) is March 5. SSP is free for lower-income families.

The Wharton Global Youth Program: An immersive experience for students currently enrolled in grades 9–11. Led by Wharton faculty and instructional staff, programs explore topics that align with Wharton research and teaching. Pre-collegiate students engage with our rigorous business education before making a post-secondary choice, and get the chance to study and network with global peers. Learn more [here](#).

LEADERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:

FEMA Youth Preparedness Council: Brings teens together from across the country that are interested and engaged in community preparedness. Council members are selected based on their involvement in extracurricular activities, their leadership experience, and their interest in preparedness and emergency management. During their two-year term, the youth leaders will complete both local and national-level projects and share their ideas regarding youth disaster preparedness with FEMA leadership and national organizations. Students in grades 8-11 are eligible. [Apply](#) by March 7.

COLLEGE FAIR TIPS:

- Review the list of colleges attending the fair and make note of all of the schools you'd like to meet with. Then, add in a few more that you haven't heard of before! Just like you might wander by a table during an in-person college fair, do some virtual wandering. Keep an open mind.
- Make your questions count. Ask open-ended questions that can't be easily found on a website. Take advantage of having college representatives right in front of you!
- When you enter a college's Zoom room, you may be one of many students – or it may just be you and the college representative. Don't be intimidated if you are the only student. They want to answer your questions!
- Take notes! Colleges tend to blend together over time, so be sure to jot down answers to your questions.
- For more tips, check out [this guide](#) from NACAC and [this guide](#) from the Princeton Review.

Not sure what to ask at a college fair? Here are some suggestions:

1. What kind of support do you have on campus? (i.e. counseling services, tutoring, career services)
2. What are the most popular student events / clubs on campus? What does an average weekend look like for students?
3. How would you describe the student body?
4. Does the school have an open curriculum or a structured set of general education requirements? What are some unique programs or classes you offer?
5. What is your average class size? What is your typical introductory class size? How accessible are professors?
6. What opportunities are there for undergraduate research? In what year can you begin research?
7. How does your Career Services Office help students find internships / jobs? What is your acceptance rate for students applying to medical school/law school?
8. What are your most popular study abroad programs? Can all majors study abroad?
9. What is the political climate on campus?
10. What do you enjoy most about the city/town where the school is located?
11. Do students apply to the school in general or do you need to apply into a particular major? Are certain majors more competitive to gain admission to than others?
12. Are all applicants considered for scholarships or do you have a separate scholarship application?
13. Are you test-optional for the Class of (*enter your class year*)?
14. Do you track demonstrated interest? What's the best way for me to show how excited I am about "X" College?
15. Do you have any advice on the application process?

If you have any questions or want to schedule an appointment, please contact Mrs. Nicholson at cnicholson@mlschools.org.