



COLLEGE & CAREER BULLETIN

February 25, 2021

TESTING UPDATES:

Test-optional updates:

[Babson College: Test-Optional Policy for the Next Three Years](#)

[Johns Hopkins University will be test-optional for the Class of 2026](#)

[Ohio State \(Columbus\) Extends ACT/SAT-Optional Policy Through Fall 2022](#)

[University of Pittsburgh Announces Test-Optional Program Extension Through Fall 2023](#)

[University of Southern California's 2022 and 2023 Test Optional Policy](#)

[University of Toronto: Test optional for students applying for Fall 2021 and 2022](#)

[University of Vermont Expands Test-Optional Policy Through 2023](#)

[Update to Boston University's Standardized Test Policy \(1 year extension\)](#)

[Washington University in St. Louis: Test Optional Policy for Applicants in 2021 and 2022](#)

[Wellesley College: Suspension of Standardized Testing Requirement for 2021-22](#)

[Yale Extends Test-Optional Policy for 2021-2022](#)

* See **FairTest.Org's** full list of [Colleges & Universities with ACT/SAT-Optional Testing Policies for Fall 2022 Admissions](#) -- 1,350+ accredited four year colleges are already test-optional for next year, with more being announced each week!

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](#)

CLASS UPDATES:

ATTENTION ALL AP STUDENTS

A reminder that March 1 is the last day to cancel your registration for an AP exam and receive a refund (minus a \$4.00 registration fee). While we hope that you will take the exam for all AP classes you are enrolled in, we want to remind you of this deadline.

To cancel an exam, you must email Mrs. Nicholson at cnicholson@mlschools.org and indicate which exams you would like to cancel. Your registration has not been updated until you receive a written confirmation from Mrs. Nicholson.

SENIORS

* Interested in CCM, but missed the Instant Decision Day? You can still apply! Their application is available [here](#). And, check out this article on CCM salaries: [County College of Morris Graduates Earn the Best Salaries in NJ and Nationwide](#)

* Many other colleges are still accepting applications. For a full list, view [this page](#). Contact Mrs. Nicholson if you need any support.

* Parents - as your child hears back from colleges next month, you may find our [Senior Parent Coffee recording](#) helpful. In this presentation, we talk about how to support your child through any decision and why admission decisions do not always seem fair.

JUNIORS

* Common App has announced the 2021-2022 essay prompts! Check out the prompts [HERE](#). The Common App essay prompts will remain the same [with one exception](#). The seldom-used option about solving a problem will be replaced with the following:

Reflect on something that someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?

The optional COVID-19 question will be retained within the Additional Information section.

FRESHMEN & SOPHOMORES

* Check out Bucknell's latest podcast: [What 9th and 10th Graders Can Do Now to Prepare to Apply](#)

UPCOMING MLHS EVENTS:

February 23 & 24: Mrs. Nicholson will be completing *Sophomore Focus* sessions during all tenth grade History classes. We will review how to use Naviance and discuss finding the right college "fit."

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

OTHER COLLEGE/CAREER EVENTS:

February 25: *TeenLife Virtual Summer Opportunities Fair*. Students, parents, and educators can hear presentations from multiple summer program representatives in a short period of time. Register [here](#).

February 28: The *National Association for College Admission Counseling* (NACAC) is hosting four virtual college fairs over the next few months, with the second on 2/28. Nearly 600 colleges will be in attendance. To register, visit [this link](#).

Not sure what to ask at a college fair? See a list of sample questions in the [previous Bulletin](#).

March 7: The *College Board* is hosting a series of *BigFuture Days*, broken down by region. These virtual events are an opportunity for high school students to connect directly with college admissions representatives. *BigFuture Day: Northeast* is the first event, hosted on March 7, with colleges from New

England, NY, and NJ in attendance. *BigFuture Days* are also scheduled for the West + Southwest, Midwest, and Southeast later this spring. Learn more and register [here](#).

March 11: Attend an information session on *West Point!* Hear about the benefits of a West Point education and learn about the process of applying to a military academy. This session is specifically for high schoolers (and their parents) from New Jersey. Registration is available [here](#).

March 13: *National USA Gap Year Fair*. Get the most up to date information about gap year basics, how the gap year field has adapted to COVID, tips for researching & planning your gap year, navigating the college deferral process, and which programs are accepting applications. Registration is available [here](#).

March 31: *HESSA FAFSA Completion Workshop*. For more information, click [here](#).

OTHER RESOURCES:

[A Beginner's Guide to Thinking About Studying Engineering in College](#), by Tufts University

[County College of Morris Graduates Earn the Best Salaries in NJ and Nationwide](#), by New Jersey Business Magazine

[Nuance in the Numbers](#), by Georgia Tech
Key Quote: "If you are a junior making a list of schools to research or possibly apply to next year, please do not correlate admit rate to quality."

[Private Universities in Philadelphia Consider Merger](#), by Inside Higher Ed

[Reflecting on the College Application Process](#), by Tufts University
Key Quote: "Though he admitted this wait [to hear back from colleges] was stressful, he also said, 'It's important to remember that you're going to end up with some great options,' even if they might not be the ones you originally pictured. No matter what happens, you still will have the opportunity to pursue an education in subjects that excite you, and to make new friendships and connections that you will take with you after college."

[The Perplexing Math of College Admissions](#), by The Atlanta Journal Constitution

[Vocational Training Guide](#), by LearnHowToBecome.Org
Key Quote: "Not everyone needs or wants to complete a four-year degree...vocational training offers a practical alternative to traditional postsecondary degrees. Vocational education engages students through contextual learning, and training is focused on building skills specific to an occupation or career field."

[What Is a Liberal Arts Education?](#), podcast by Bucknell University

[@UVaDeanJ Twitter Account](#), by UVA Dean Lalonde



Jeannine Lalonde
@UVaDeanJ

GPA's aren't standardized.
GPA's don't convey trends.
GPA's don't tell us about coursework.

Students with similar GPA's can have completely different transcripts. This is why we analyze the transcripts and don't have GPA minimums or cut offs.
[#UVA](#) [#UVA25](#) [#CollegeAdmissions](#)

[ATHLETIC RECRUITMENT:](#)

[3 Things Athletic Recruits Can Do to Get Ahead During COVID-19](#), by CollegeData.com

[Athletic Recruitment 101](#), by College Admissions Strategies

[Athletic Recruiting 101: What Student Athletes Need to Know](#), by IvyWise

[FDU: We added new athletic programs in the midst of the pandemic](#), by NJ.com

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

[Is Division 1 Really the Best?](#), by USA Today

[Maximizing Your College Search In 2021](#), by Stack.com

[NCAA Division I Council extends recruiting dead period for all sports through May 31](#), by ESPN

[SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES:](#)

[MLHS Awards:](#)

Friends of the Arts Scholarship: acknowledges graduating Mountain Lakes High School seniors who have actively participated in the visual and/or performing arts both in and out of the school setting, and who plan to continue participating in the arts in the future. Two \$1,000 scholarships will be awarded. To access the application and learn more, visit [this link](#). The application is due by May 7.

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 letter of recommendation. Contact Mrs. Nicholson for a copy of the application, which is due by April 1.

[Morris County / NJ Scholarships:](#)

Arlene Persson Memorial Scholarship: The Rockaway Valley Garden Club is awarding a scholarship of up to \$1,000 to a graduating senior. This scholarship rewards demonstrated effort and interest in horticulture or and/or environmental initiatives within school or community by the applicant. The deadline for application and transcript submission is April 1. Contact Mrs. Nicholson for a copy of the application.

Hearing Loss Association of America, New Jersey Association: HLAA-NJ is awarding 6 scholarships to high school seniors with hearing loss who are planning to continue their education in Fall 2021. Two \$2500 scholarships are available, as well as four \$1500 awards. [Apply](#) by May 1.

Montville UNICO Foundation Scholarships: The Montville Chapter of UNICO National, the largest Italian service organization in the U.S., is offering two scholarships that our seniors may qualify for: the Italian Studies Grant and Educational Grant. Review their

eligibility requirements and learn more [here](#). Applications are due by April 16.

Morris County Association of School Business Officials is sponsoring the Jerome F. Sullivan and MCASBO Memorial Scholarship. Applicants are eligible for a \$1,000-\$2,000 scholarship. Mountain Lakes High School can nominate one applicant (a graduating senior). Interested students should email Mrs. Nicholson by March 15 with a brief description on why they would be a good candidate for this award. Please include your extracurricular activities, any positions of leadership/awards, and your planned college major.

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.

NJSCA High School Award: NJSCA will be awarding three \$1000 awards and plaques to high school seniors who recognize the important role of their school counselor. Applicants must write a 300-500 word essay describing how your school counselor has influenced your life in a positive way. [Apply by](#) March 15.

Outside Scholarships:

Handeli First-Year Student Scholarship is awarded annually to two graduating high school seniors who are preparing to seek a bachelor's degree at an accredited college or university in the United States or Canada. Applicants must demonstrate a record of leadership and/or volunteer service in any aspect of their local community, and must also self-identify as Jewish. [Apply](#) by March 15.

Microsoft disAbility Scholarship: This scholarship will be awarded to promising high school seniors with disabilities (visual, hearing, mobility, cognitive, speech or other disability) who plan to attend a vocational or academic college and target a career in the technology industry. The scholarships are renewable – each winner is eligible to receive an annual award of \$5,000 for up to four consecutive years. Learn more and apply [here](#). Applications are due by March 1.

Porch Scholarship: Porch will award a \$2,000 scholarship to eligible students. You must have a 3.4+ GPA and must be pursuing a degree that enables you or others in your community to learn a new trade, develop

skills and technology, or start a small business related to home services offered by Porch. [Apply by](#) April 16.

Sertoma Scholarship for Students Who Are Hard of Hearing or Deaf: This is a \$1,000 scholarship to cover tuition, books and supplies. For more details, visit [this link](#). [Apply by](#) March 30.

Shell Scholarships provide financial and career assistance to graduating high school seniors who have expressed an interest in the energy industry and demonstrated an aptitude in mathematics and science. Shell will sponsor up to 20 one-year awards of \$2,500 for selected seniors enrolling in engineering or geosciences at universities identified by Shell. [Apply by](#) March 15.

Tzu Chi Scholars is now accepting applications for a scholarship (Mid-Atlantic applicants are eligible for a \$1,000 award). All high school graduating seniors are encouraged to apply. Scholars are selected on the basis of financial need, academic achievement, and community involvement. The [application](#) is due by March 13.

Fee waiver codes: *Thomas Jefferson University* is waiving their application fee now through March 1. Students should enter the fee waiver code "BREAKTHROUGH" on the Common App.

NJIT has also provided us with a fee waiver: use code NJ21.

ENRICHMENT OPPORTUNITIES / SUMMER PROGRAMS:

See previously listed opportunities [HERE](#). Want to learn more about summer program options? Attend the [TeenLife Virtual Summer Opportunities Fair](#).

Columbia University's Science Honors Program (SHP) offers enrichment courses in science and mathematics on Saturday mornings throughout the school year. Applicants must now be in the 11th, 10th, or 9th grade and should have a strong interest and exceptional ability in science and mathematics. Learn more [here](#). Applications are due by March 15.

Curtiss-Wright Squadron of the Civil Air Patrol: In this program, cadets learn about all aspects of aerospace,

leadership, strong character and physical training. They gain maturity, professionalism, and teamwork skills invaluable in their school and professional careers.

There is no obligation to join the military after cadet participation; only about 10% of their cadets do. To register for their *Cadet Open House* (March 9) [click here](#); to learn more about the program [click here](#).

Drexel Summer Institutes are offered in a range of academic areas, including Medicine, Entrepreneurship, and Engineering. Learn more [here](#).

NYU GSTEM: A summer research program for talented, STEM-savvy high schoolers who want to learn in an inclusive, supportive environment. The program is open to current juniors (outstanding sophomores will be considered if there is space available). Learn more [here](#).

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