



Empowered Academic Success

PERSONALIZED COLLEGE ADMISSIONS CONSULTING

WINTER 2021 Newsletter

To Test or Not to Test

Registration is open for spring testing dates. Does this mean your student should register? Not necessarily. COVID-19 is definitely putting a wrench in everyone's lives. While many states offer testing, families are concerned about students being indoors and in close proximity to each other for such a length of time. If numbers are still high where you live, students may register only to have their test canceled.

Many institutions went test-optional (TO) last year, and many of them are staying test-optional this admissions cycle. So what does this mean for your student?

If your student does not test well, or if they have test anxiety, they have an opportunity to shine with their GPA, academic rigor, and extracurricular activities. Some schools require additional essays for TO applicants. SAT and/or ACT scores also provide a chance for additional merit aid at certain institutions. When making the decision to apply test-optional, it is important that you know the testing policies for the institutions you are interested in applying to.

Ultimately, this is a family decision. Testing plans can be found on individual college websites and, of course, I am here to counsel you if you aren't sure which path to choose.



ACT Dates

April 17, 2021
June 12, 2021
July 17, 2021



SAT Dates

March 13, 2021
May 8, 2021
June 5, 2021

For the most accurate testing updates or to register for the SAT or ACT visit:

SAT
ACT

Teacher Recommendations

It is a good idea to request recommendations from two teachers and your school counselor toward the end of your junior year. Ask teachers that like and respect you, preferably those who have taught you during your junior year. Admissions officers will use these letters to determine if you are a good fit for the college community and to determine how you will enhance their community.

Teachers get inundated with requests for recommendations. Ask early and make it as easy on them as possible. Provide a copy of your transcript, your senior year schedule, and a resume or "brag" sheet. Remind them of interactions that you've had together that have had a lasting impression on you.

Lastly, be sure to send a thank you note in the fall after your application deadlines.

COLLEGE CONNECTIONS



RADFORD UNIVERSITY

Radford is a medium-sized public university, with just over 8,000 undergraduates, located in Radford, Virginia. Business, Management & Marketing is the most popular of their 46 majors. Rad is test-optional and has support systems in place for first-generation college students. Out of state students, don't fear! Radford's got you! Students love to cheer on the D1 basketball team. Go Highlanders!

UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Located in Tucson, the state's most "fun" city, the University of Arizona has a little bit of everything. Known for being a top research facility and home to one of the nation's largest honors colleges, the Arizona Wildcats are also D1 teams in football and basketball. This large public university has over 35,000 undergraduates and 144 majors. Arizona offers plenty of clubs, Greek life, and study abroad programs, and you can't beat the weather - the average temp is 83 degrees.



COLORADO COLLEGE

Best known for its block plan, taking one three and a half week course at a time, Colorado College, with 2098 undergraduate students, is a unique, private liberal arts college offering 42 majors and 33 minors with a 15% acceptance rate. Each month, students get a four-and-a-half day Block Break to recharge before starting a new course. Located in Colorado Springs, CO the outdoorsy and adventurous student body make the mountains their playground with biking, hiking, and skiing out their back door. Many families are able to afford Colorado College with the combination of grants, modest loans, reasonable work opportunities, and family resources and meets 100% of your family's eligibility for need-based financial aid.



MAJOR SPOTLIGHT

PSYCHOLOGY

Psychology is one of the most popular degrees for students because of its versatility. It opens doors in human resources, social work, marketing, and many other areas. If you plan to continue in a clinical area, you'll need to continue your education at the master or doctorate levels.

Possible careers include forensic psychologist, psychology professor, social worker, mental health counselor, or school counselor.



TERMS TO KNOW

Test Optional

Schools allow students to choose if they wish to submit test scores and are not penalized if they choose not to.

Test Blind or Test Free

Colleges choose not to use test scores at all for admissions decisions

Advanced Placement (AP)

A system by which college freshmen may bypass entry-level courses by proving that they have already taken the equivalent in high school. Credit may be awarded if a student earns a certain grade on an AP exam taken in high school.

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