



College Counseling Crier

COVID-19 Edition

April 2020

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Upcoming Standardized Test Dates

ACT Test Dates and Deadlines*

June 13, 2020
(registration deadline:
May 8)

July 18, 2020
(registration deadline:
June 19)

SAT Test Dates and Deadlines*

June 6, 2020
(registration deadline:
May 8)

**If you will be taking these tests with
accommodations, please contact
Mrs. Anzelone*

Making a Choice During Confusing Times

These times are undoubtedly unprecedented. Colleges and universities across the nation have had to make quick decisions for their current students, faculty, and staff. Brennan Barnard shares in his article "[The COVID College Choice: How to Pick A College During A Global Pandemic](#)," college admission is certainly not immune to the impact of this disease. But still, high school seniors will have choices to make! Without accepted student visit days, taking a tour, or meeting future classmates in the traditional sense, things look different. Different is okay! Many college websites now provide students with the opportunity for virtual tours, open houses, and Zoom meetings with faculty and students.

Canceled SAT/ACT? How to Stay Prepared and How to Move Forward

A few weeks ago, the College Board and the ACT canceled their respective March and April testing dates. We know this is the time of year many juniors plan to test, and have been preparing for weeks or even months. Jed Applerouth, the founder of Applerouth Tutoring Services, encourages students and families in his article, "[What to do if your SAT or ACT was Canceled](#)." He shares that both the College Board and the ACT are hopefully planning additional summer testing dates.

There are many free resources for students to utilize to stay up-to-date in their preparation, such as [Khan Academy](#), [Testive](#) (offering free digitally-proctored tests on [Wednesdays](#) and [Saturdays](#)), and through the [Princeton Review](#), to name a few.

Colleges and universities are understanding of the current situation. Many are adopting test-optional policies, and as you know from [FairTest](#), hundreds of colleges already had these policies in place.



Save the Dates

Canceled:
**Washington Area
Independent Schools
(WAIS) Fair for Juniors
and their Families**

The WAIS group is working on a document that will provide important contact information for the college representatives who are assigned to the DMV region. We will share as soon as we receive more information.

Canceled:
**Mock Admission
Program for Juniors and
their Families**

We are investigating the possibility of rescheduling for later this year or early fall.

Yale Yields Helpful Information

It's hard not find a response from a college or university about the outbreak of COVID-19. Yale University provides the following update:

The outbreak is changing how schools teach and students learn all around the world. We recognize that these changes will have lasting effects on school communities and on students' academic records, standardized testing opportunities, extracurricular activities, and learning experiences outside of school.

We want to reassure all future college applicants that a community's response to the outbreak—and students' personal circumstances associated with it—will not negatively affect a student's chances of admission to Yale.

Yale's whole-person review process relies on a committee of admissions officers, faculty members, and college deans to make admissions decisions through discussion and deliberation. This system allows for maximum flexibility when considering applicants from all backgrounds and experiences. Our upcoming admissions cycles will be no different.

Below are insights from the Admissions Committee about common areas of concern:

Academic Records

Just as secondary schools take a diverse set of approaches to curricula and assessment during normal times, schools are taking a diverse set of approaches when responding to the outbreak. We expect that many transcripts will look different for at least the spring 2020 semester. Regardless of your school's decisions, we will work to understand your school's unique context and will not penalize students whose transcripts lack letter grades. It may be helpful to know that Yale does not re-calculate or re-weight grade point averages to a uniform scale.

We also recognize that many students' personal circumstances may make it especially difficult to achieve at their typical academic level during this time. These considerations will also be part of our committee's whole-person review.

Extracurricular Activities and Experiences

The outbreak has caused the cancellation of innumerable events, activities, and programs. It has caused disruptions to family lives and livelihoods with wide-ranging effects on students' schedules. It has changed nearly everyone's priorities and opportunities with remarkable speed. We expect that *most* students' extracurricular activities and learning opportunities outside of school have been, or will be, affected.

We share your disappointment about canceled performances and sporting events, service projects and mission trips, school activities and conferences.

While we wish that all students could continue pursuing their interests and commitments as they did before the outbreak, for most students this will not be possible. We also recognize that many students will need to take on additional responsibilities at home or at a family business during this time.

Yale's application platforms provide ample space to provide contextual information that can help the Committee understand the factors that shaped students' opportunities and commitments. Rest assured that Yale will take each student's unique context into account when reviewing applications. No student will be penalized because of a change in commitments or a change to plans because of the outbreak. Our advice to candidates during this time remains the same: demonstrate a deep commitment to and genuine appreciation for whatever you spend your time doing.

Business as Usual



While a lot has shifted over the past few weeks, Bullis School's Technology department has done a wonderful job in giving us a sense of normalcy. Course selection is well underway, and Mr. Bailey's email communications provide valuable updates.

We encourage students to keep their appointments and meetings with their course coaches, to follow Mr. Bailey's guidelines, and to submit their signed Course Request Worksheets in a timely fashion.

Celebrations Continue Amid Curious Times

To date, our seniors have **547 acceptances** to colleges and universities all over the country and internationally. At this point, the vast majority of admission decisions have been released with the possibility of some shifting through Wait List activity.

With the National Candidates Reply Date, May 1, fast approaching, we are excited to help our seniors with their final choice. Each must submit **one and only one** deposit to their school of choice on or before May 1, 2020. There is a [growing list](#) of schools that are pushing their deposit dates back to later in May or June. If seniors and their families have questions about their options, we encourage them to contact their counselor.

As a reminder to our seniors, please let us know of all admission decisions, and scholarship awards.

We want to celebrate with you and provide good advice and counsel.