



MGS EDUCATIONAL CONSULTING

Design your path to college

MARCH 2021



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COLLEGE ADMISSIONS NEWS

More than 1,350 four-year colleges are **Test Optional** for Fall 2021 applications.

What does this mean?

Since so many teens have been unable to take the SAT or ACT because of the pandemic, the majority of colleges will accept applications *without test scores*. If a student wants to submit their scores, they can.

What should juniors do if they haven't taken the SAT or ACT? If you are able to take the SAT or ACT, go ahead, but I wouldn't spend too much time or money preparing. Now is not the time to add unnecessary stress to our lives. There is no evidence one way or the other that submitting SAT or ACT scores this year has had an impact on who gets in, so if you're not able to take an SAT or ACT, please don't stress. Test Optional is a real option! And remember that the SAT subject tests and essays have been discontinued. Deep breath....



KEY TERMS TO UNDERSTAND

TEST OPTIONAL:

You can choose whether or not to submit your test scores.

TEST BLIND:

A college will not look at your scores even if you send them. CalTech is an example of a test-blind school.

COLLEGES IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

MACALESTER

- Location: St. Paul, MN
- # of undergrads: 2,000
- Acceptance Rate: 32%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 10:1

INTERESTING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

- New minors in Data Science and Statistics
- Concentrations in Cognitive Science and Legal Studies

FUN FACTS:

- Bagpipes are frequently heard on campus
- Many professors play intramurals with students and offer summer research opportunities
- Globe-trotting activists and quirky intellectuals welcome

NORTHEASTERN

- Location: Boston, MA
- # of undergrads: 18,191
- Acceptance Rate: 18%
- Student / Faculty Ratio: 14:1

INTERESTING ACADEMIC PROGRAMS:

- Students choose from 2,900 co-op options (including in 80 global locations) and complete 2 co-op programs over their 4 years -- which means that students graduate with real-world experience and significant job opportunities

FUN FACTS:

- The Underwear Run is a tradition that takes place every Parents Weekend

IT'S MARCH. WHAT SHOULD JUNIORS BE DOING?

- Because grades and rigorous coursework are the most important factors in college admissions, it's important to **focus on your schoolwork** as best you can.

- Don't shy away from **rigorous courses** when you choose your classes for senior year. But be sure that your schedule is manageable. Applying to college in the fall is time-consuming and can feel overwhelming, so make sure that your schedule allows time and mental space for college applications.

- Start thinking about **what you're looking for** in a college. Big/small? Urban/suburban/rural? Research university/liberal arts college? Sunny/snowy? Classes led by professors/teaching assistants? Try to prioritize the factors that are most important to you.

- Start **researching** colleges. Use the Fiske Guide and the Colleges That Change Lives. Review websites. Go on virtual tours (and use this [checklist](#)). Are there any colleges that you could actually visit in person during spring break? Use this [checklist](#) for in-person visits.

SO YOU WANT TO STUDY... GAME DESIGN?

CHECK OUT THESE COLLEGES:

Carnegie Mellon
Northeastern
Drexel
RIT
Georgia Tech
SCAD
USC
Chapman

UPCOMING VIRTUAL COLLEGE FAIRS

- March 7th - STEM
- March 16th - Performing Arts
- March 21st

Go to www.nacacfairs.org for info



CONTACT ME and let me know how I can support you and your family.

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