

The Road to College

A College Counseling Newsletter



You might notice that this month's newsletter is jam-packed with information. Well... it is safe to say that October is one of the busiest months of the year in College Counseling and there is a lot to share with all of you. Thanks in advance for reading!

As we make our way through this month, there are some big dates on the horizon. Many members of the Class of 2024 will submit their first applications OR will be working hard to put finishing touches on applications that will be submitted as the calendar turns over to November 1st. The Classes of 2025 and 2026 will take the Digital PSAT, and we will host our second college fair this fall! When we also factor in several Application Help Nights, the Application Bootcamp, and non-stop individual meetings, let's just say it promises to be an exciting month.

Please read on for more class specific news and information!

Anna Barlow-Boesch
Director of College Counseling

CLASS NEWS



Bootcamp/Help Nights: October is a busy month as students work to finalize their college application components. In addition to

their individual college counseling meetings, members of the Class of 2024 will have the opportunity to benefit from help during the Application Bootcamp on Oct. 13. All seniors/PGs should report to the Ong Library by 9 a.m. We are also holding three more Application Help Nights on **10/19, 10/25, 10/30**, 7-8:30 p.m., in the Wilson Reading Room.

Application submission (general): The month of October brings the first round of major application deadlines, with Oct. 15 serving as an early action deadline for several major universities. As we make our way through the next few weeks, students should make sure they are attending regularly scheduled college counseling meetings to review essays and applications. Students may also wish to submit their first application with their college counselor, which is certainly an endeavor we can support. As a friendly reminder, please do not wait until the last minute to submit an application. While the deadline is technically 11:59 p.m. on the stated date, we strongly encourage students to submit at least 24-48 hours in advance.

Application submission (specific logistics): Please remember that students must fill out an Application Processing Form and check to ensure their Maia Learning "Applying" list is accurate to ensure that all intended applications are accounted for. Students are responsible for submitting the following: college application and official score reports (when submitting scores and when official reports are required by a college). The College Counseling Office will submit the following: high school transcripts (WRA and previous schools, when applicable), letters of recommendation (teachers and counselor), WRA school profile and mid-semester grades (see below for more information).

Mid-Semester Grades for Early Deadlines: Mid-semester grades will be sent in support of students' applications to all Early Action and Early Decision colleges/universities with deadlines between 10/15/23 - 12/1/23. These grades will close on 10/27/23 to ensure timely processing. Please note that this grade report is not a required document for application deadlines and will be accepted by colleges and reviewed prior to admission decisions being released.

Testing Guidance: As test-optional admission policies continue, it is important for students to pay close attention to this component of their process. We have prepared this [helpful tips document](#) to share reminders about whether to submit scores or not along with general information regarding the reporting of scores to colleges in cases when students decide to submit. Please take some time to carefully review the information included and be in touch with your counselor if you have questions.

FAFSA and CSS Profile: The [CSS Profile](#) opened on Oct. 1 for the 2024-25 application cycle. There are schools and scholarship programs that [require the form](#) so be sure to check schools' websites for more information. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid ([FAFSA](#)) will be available in December. If your family plans to apply for need-based financial aid, these forms are the two most common that will be required. It is important to consult the financial aid websites of the colleges to which you/your student are applying for more specific information about required documentation and deadlines.

Rep Visits: College Admission Rep visits continue this month! To see the complete list of scheduled visits, please log in to MaiaLearning or check the [rep visit calendar](#). Visits are held in Ellsworth Hall beginning at 6 p.m. Students, you will receive a weekly email every Sunday night with the schedule for the week ahead!

College Fair: We are hosting the second [College Fair](#) on Oct. 18! This event will take place in the MAC Memorial Gym from 3:30-5 p.m. All afternoon activities have been canceled so that all students can attend.



Rep visits: College Admission Rep visits continue

this month! To see the complete list of scheduled visits, please log in to MaiaLearning or check the [rep visit calendar](#). Visits will be held in the Ong Library, Ellsworth Hall or online. Students, you will receive a weekly email every Sunday night with the schedule for the week ahead!

College Fair: We are hosting a second [College Fair](#) on Oct. 18! This event will take place in the MAC Memorial Gym from 3:30-5 p.m. All afternoon activities have been canceled so that all students can attend.

PSAT: All juniors will take the [PSAT/NMSQT](#) on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. This practice SAT will provide students the opportunity to begin familiarizing themselves with the new digital testing format while also receiving helpful feedback regarding skills, areas of strength, and opportunity for further development. By taking this test, students will also have the chance to qualify for the [National Merit Scholarship program](#) as well as [National Recognition programs](#).

Method Learning (test prep): All members of the Class of 2025 have received information for how to access their Method Learning accounts. Method Learning is our partner for delivering online, self-paced standardized test preparation for both the ACT and SAT to all members of the Class of 2025 at WRA. Counselors will be working closely with students on developing an individual testing schedule when formal college counseling meetings begin later this fall. For now, make sure you know how to log in before then working to complete the SAT and ACT evaluation tests.



College Fair: We are hosting a second [College Fair](#) on

Oct. 18! This event will take place in the MAC Memorial Gym from 3:30-5 p.m. The Class of 2026 is invited to attend between 4:15-5 p.m. that afternoon after meeting with the Student Life Office beginning at 3:45 p.m. Fairs provide an excellent opportunity for students to learn about a variety of different institutions: large, small; research university, liberal arts college; in-state, out-of-state; domestic, international; and more! For tips on how to navigate a college fair or ask questions of admission representatives, [please see this helpful tip sheet!](#)

PSAT: All sophomores will take the [PSAT/NMSQT](#) on Friday, Oct. 13, 2023. This practice SAT will provide students the opportunity to begin familiarizing themselves with the new digital testing format while also receiving helpful feedback regarding skills, areas of strength, and opportunity for further development.



College Fair: We are hosting a second [College Fair](#) on Oct. 18! This event will take place in the MAC Memorial Gym from 3:30-5 p.m. All afternoon activities have been canceled so that all students can attend. The Student Life Office held programming prior to the last fair and has plans to do the same on Oct. 18 after which freshmen will attend the fair from 4:15-5 p.m. Fairs provide an excellent opportunity for students to learn about a

variety of different institutions: large, small; research university, liberal arts college; in-state, out-of-state; domestic, international; and more! For tips on how to navigate a college fair or ask questions of admission representatives, [please see this helpful tip sheet!](#)

Each month, we will offer a tip specifically geared toward our youngest students. While we want you to focus on embracing all that your first year at WRA has to offer, we also recognize that this is the first of several important years as a student here. As such, there are certainly some important topics to be conscious of.

October's Tip: Build relationships! With your advisor, with your teachers, with your peers — these are the people with whom you will spend the most time over the next few years. Be intentional in benefiting from the guidance of your advisor, in seeking extra help from your teachers, in forming friendships with peers who may introduce you to new experiences and opportunities. Think about what you want others to know and understand about you and what it is you hope to learn. How do you want to grow through the many impactful relationships you are beginning to form here?

Standardized Testing

Digital PSAT

Tomorrow, Friday, October 13, the Classes of 2025 and 2026 took the new digital PSAT. Ben Neely, the Chief Research and Impact Officer at Revolution Prep, has created a short video for students regarding changes to the PSAT and how the new digital format will affect them. This will continue to be helpful information as students prepare for the digital SAT which will replace the paper version in March, 2024. Please [access the video here](#).

Desmos Calculator

The [Desmos Calculator](#) is a tool that students can expect to use on the digital SAT. It is a free online calculator that is part of a larger teaching and learning platform. Test takers will use the graphing calculator feature, which is standard for all high school students. Students should familiarize themselves with this calculator ahead of taking the SAT so that they know what to expect. [Linked here](#) is more information on how to download and practice with Desmos on Ohio State Assessments as well as information on the calculator's accessibility features.

Financial Aid & Scholarships

["How to Complete the CSS Profile"](#)

["How to Apply to College for Free"](#)

["How America Pays for College 2023: Sallie Mae's National Study of College Students and Parents"](#)

Upcoming Dates & Tips

Oct. 13, 2023
Digital PSAT,
Application Boot
Camp

Oct. 18, 2023
College Fair

Oct. 19, 25 & 30,
2023: Application
Help Nights

Questions for the
College Fair

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