

The Road to College

A College Counseling Newsletter



You might notice that this month's newsletter is a little longer than the rest. 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 2023 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 Class of 2024 will take the PSAT and we will host our very first College Mini Fair! 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 and jam packed month. And yet, if you ask any of the counselors.....we wouldn't have it any other way! Let's go!

Please read on for more class specific news!

Anna Barlow-Boesch
Director of College Counseling



Help Nights/Bootcamp: 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 2023 will have the opportunity to benefit from help during the following events: 10/12: Application Bootcamp (9:00am-noon, Ong Library), 10/18, 10/24, 10/25: Application Help Nights (7:00-8:30pm, Wilson Reading Room).

Application submission (general): The month of October brings the first round of major application deadlines, with October 15 serving as an early action deadline for several major universities. As we make our way through the next few weeks, students should be making 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 11:59pm 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 10/15/22-12/1/22. These grades will close on 10/20/22 to ensure timely processing.

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: On October 1, 2022 the [FAFSA](#) and [CSS Profile](#) opened for the 2022-23 application cycle. 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 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!

Mini Fair: We are hosting our first [mini College Fair](#)! This event will take place in the Murdough Athletic Center on Thursday, Oct. 20. The Class of 2023 is invited to attend between 6:30-7:30pm that night.



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Mini Fair: We are hosting our first [mini College Fair](#)! This event will take place in the Murdough Athletic Center on Thursday, Oct. 20. The Class of 2024 is invited to attend between 6:30-7:30pm that night.

PSAT: All juniors will take the [PSAT/NMSQT](#) on Wednesday, Oct. 12, 2022. This practice SAT will provide students the opportunity to begin familiarizing themselves with this 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 2024 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 2024 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 Tour: We are thrilled to share that we will be offering a [college tour](#) over mid-winter break. This four day tour will allow students to visit several excellent institutions within North and South Carolina. More information about pricing and sign up for the trip will be shared soon.



Mini Fair: We are hosting our first [mini College Fair](#)! This event will take place in the Murdough Athletic Center on Thursday, Oct. 20. The Class of 2025 is invited to attend between 6:00-6:30pm that night. This mini fair will 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: As a reminder, the Class of 2025 will not take the PSAT this month. This is due to the scheduled change in testing format which will move to a digital platform next year. We hope to offer a practice digital exam at some point this spring - stay tuned for more details!

College Tour: College Tour: We are thrilled to share that we will be offering a [college tour](#) over mid-winter break. This four day tour will allow students to visit several excellent institutions within North and South Carolina. More information about pricing and sign up for the trip will be shared soon.



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?

Upcoming Dates & Tips

Oct. 12- College Application Boot Camp

Oct. 12 - PSAT

Oct. 18 - Application Help Night

Oct. 20 - Mini College Fair!

Oct. 24 - Application Help Night

Oct. 25 - Application Help Night

Oct. 25 - Late registration deadline for the November SAT

Nov. 3 - Registration deadline for the December SAT

Nov. 4 - Registration deadline for the December ACT

* READING RECS & TIPS *

New York Times:
[Columbia's Drop In Rank](#)

Georgia Tech Admission Blog:
[Top 3 Reasons Not to Trust Rankings](#)

US News:
[How the Rankings are Calculated](#)

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