

# College Newsletter

From the Office of Kathi Woods Director of College Counseling

Issue #2 September 2023

## In This Issue

### \*Testing News

### \*Going Merry: scholarships

### \*College Spotlight: Engineering Schools

### \*News-

- Delayed FAFSA Rollout Could Cause Issues for Colleges and Students
- Sallie Mae information sheet on financial aid

### \*Class Notes

### Colleges Visiting NDA August/September

Denison College  
University of Notre Dame  
Wofford College  
Northwestern University  
Miami of Ohio  
William & Mary College  
Furman University  
Case Western University

## PSAT/SAT/ACT Dates Coming Up

Test Date	Type of Test	Deadline/late date	Scores 1 <sup>st</sup> Available
October 7	<b>SAT</b>	September 7/September 26	October 13
October 28	<b>ACT</b>	September 22/October 6	November 10
November 4	<b>SAT</b>	October 5/October 24	November 17
December 2	<b>SAT</b>	November 2/November 21	December 15
December 9	<b>ACT</b>	November 3/November 17	December 22

### Juniors...Reminder: SAT/ACT Required for Georgia **Public** Colleges

**If you are thinking about attending a public college in Georgia, you must submit an SAT score. There is a minimum score below. If anyone does not meet the minimum, you must apply to Ga. Perimeter or Ga. Gwinnett that do not have those minimums.**

**An explanation of the public system policies is below. SAT/ACT- Minimum Requirements for 2024 Entry Students** - some colleges like Columbus State, Ga. Southern, Kennesaw State and Valdosta State are test flexible, which means after a senior applies, they will let you know if your GPA is high enough that you do not need to submit test scores. If the minimum GPA is not met, traditional test score **minimum** requirements listed below are required. **Because UGA and Ga. Tech are very competitive most applicants must far exceed **minimum** scores to be accepted.**

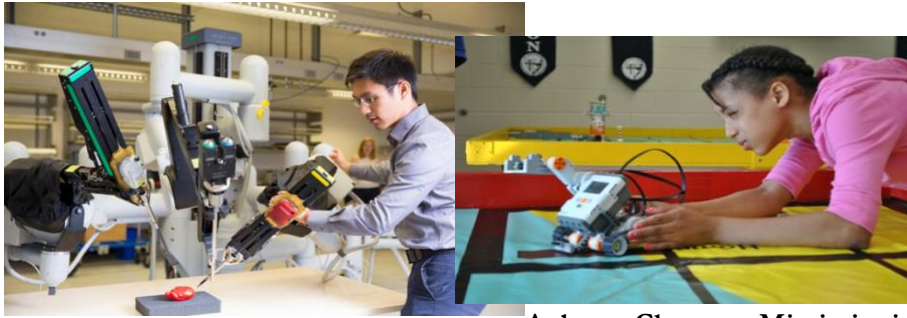
**SAT** 480 Reading; 440 Math / **ACT** 17 English or Reading; 17 Math

**Please Contact Applerouth tutoring for prep help if your first SAT is lower than what you need to be accepted to your preferred college.**

**[www.applerouth.com](http://www.applerouth.com) - [info@applerouth.com](mailto:info@applerouth.com) - 866-789-PREP (7737)**

**Other colleges that are requiring an SAT score with an application are**

1. Private colleges: Georgetown University-DC, MIT
2. Public colleges: in Florida, Auburn\* test flexible (3.6 and cannot take the test), Purdue class of 2024, U of Tenn., Georgia- Ga. Tech/ UGA-other colleges in Georgia will be test flexible (3.0-3.2 /above not required to submit scores) Students submit applications and the college will let you know if you need to submit scores after they have recalculated the GPA.



## College Spotlight:

So You Want Engineering?

Auburn, Clemson, Mississippi State, Northwestern, Notre Dame, Duke, Dartmouth, Vanderbilt, Penn State, Ga. Tech, Bucknell, Lafayette, Lehigh, Virginia Tech, University of Alabama, U of Illinois/Urbana Champaign, Purdue, UNC Chapel Hill, North Carolina State, Carnegie Mellon, Rice, University of Cincinnati, Stevens Institute, University of Chicago, Harvey Mudd, Rose-Hulman, Olin, Smith

There are many different types of Institutions that offer majors in engineering. How does a student know what type might be best for their needs and personality if a visit to the campus is impossible?

- Virtual visits are helpful and plentiful in today's college admission world.
- Some departments offer webinars or panel sessions. A few will even zoom with a student.
- Most engineering programs are housed on larger campuses and at major research universities but there are a few elite programs that are smaller.
  - Harvey Mudd is a part of the Claremont Colleges in a small town of Claremont, 40 minutes east of Los Angeles and has 900 students in their engineering school but you are allowed to take classes on the shared campus with Pomona, Pitzer, Scripps and Claremont Colleges. Another California college, Caltech, is one of the top-rated schools for engineering and computer science minds. They offer spots to slightly under 1000 students. Cal Poly at San Luis Obispo, another option in California, has one unifying theme that defines their mission in engineering- *Learn By Doing*.
  - Olin is one of the smallest at 385 students, 50% female, and they say they “embrace radical thinking!” and give students the “freedom to create.” Because it is small, it is highly selective.
  - Pennsylvania houses several midsize programs with 2,000-5,000 students and as another option, Penn State, the flagship, large university.
  - There are several midsize universities housing 4,000-10,000 students, that have strong engineering/architecture programs but also have top ranked programs in liberal art type majors. For example, Vanderbilt and Rice have famous schools of music. Northwestern has a top-rated theatre program. University of Chicago has the famous Institute for Politics and the #1-2 ranked economics program. The same can be said of Notre Dame. You can major in engineering and take philosophy courses. Carnegie Mellon has a drama program and top ranked Computer Science, AI and engineering.
  - Smith College, an all-female institution, handed out 11 engineering degrees in 2021.
- Look at the internships, job placement and who hires the graduates at a certain college.
- There are a wide variety of types of engineering majors that you may not find at all schools. A college like Alabama who has been building their program, might not have the array of options that Auburn has.
- Different colleges have different strengths. If you are interested in Biomedical engineering, Look at Duke and Ga. Tech and compare offerings. Smith will not have it.

## What does an example of a loan look like?

As an example of how all this works, the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan has these standard terms:

- Interest rate: 5.50% fixed
- Origination fee: 1.06%
- Repayment term: 10 years (standard)
- Minimum monthly payment: \$50

Based on this, if you borrowed \$3500, here's what your loan would look like:

- Borrowed: \$3500
- Total paid over 10 years: \$4,285.77
- Interest paid over 10 years: \$748.27 — This is effectively what you paid to borrow that original \$3500!

Loans (even the “best” ones from the federal government) are expensive which is why financial institutions recommend generally limiting them as much as possible. And if you DO need to take loans, maxing out your Federal Direct loans... and then shopping around for the best interest rate after that.

# Big FAFSA® changes are here

Different doesn't mean bad: we've got your back so you don't miss a beat.

Completing and submitting the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA®) just got easier, but you will want to know about changes too so you're prepared!

## What do you need?

If you're a dependent student, you'll need this information for you and your parents.

- ✓ You and your parents will need an FSA (Federal Student Aid) ID to access the FAFSA® and sign the form electronically. The FSA ID must be obtained at **studentaid.gov** before you start the FAFSA®, and we recommend applying 3-5 days before you plan on starting the FAFSA®.
- ✓ Your Social Security number
- ✓ Your parents' Social Security numbers
- ✓ **What do you no longer need?** Student and parent tax documents. All of this information will be automatically accessed from the IRS through the FUTURE Act Direct Data Exchange (FADDX).



Keep in mind that filing the FAFSA® is free—you should never be asked to pay to complete the form.



If your financial aid status has changed, you must complete the FAFSA® with the information required, and then follow up with your school's financial aid office for further advice.



To be eligible for federal financial aid, you must file the FAFSA® for each year you'll be in school.

\*Source: FAFSA application submission time frames and required tax information are projected based on information provided at <https://studentaid.gov>

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Don't miss out on financial aid. Get more information at [salliemae.com/gofafsa](https://salliemae.com/gofafsa)

## Submission time frames

Academic year  
**2024 – 2025**

Submit your FAFSA® beginning  
**December 2023**

Academic year  
**2025 – 2026**

Submit your FAFSA® beginning  
**October 1, 2024**

Academic year  
**2026 – 2027**

Submit your FAFSA® beginning  
**October 1, 2025**



Changes to FAFSA include, but are not limited to: The number of questions on the FAFSA has decreased from over 100 to less than 50.

- The EFC (Estimated Family Contribution) is now the Student Aid Index (SAI).
- Students can list up to 20 schools on their FAFSA via the online application.
- The Data Retrieval Tool (DRT) has been renamed the Federal Taxpayer Information (FTI).
- The students, spouse, and parent(s) will now need to provide their consent in the new *Consent to Retrieve and Disclose Federal Tax Information* section of the FAFSA for federal student aid eligibility.
  - This consent will allow the IRS to share FTI.
  - If any party to the FAFSA form does not provide consent, submission of the form will still be allowed. However, a Student Aid Index (SAI) will not be calculated.

## Financial Aid News



### Going Merry Scholarship System:

[DOWNLOAD FULL LIST \(CSV\)](#) [SEE LIST ON GOING MERRY](#)

- Going Merry is a free scholarship and financial aid resource for students, counselors, and (now) parents. We're used by more than 22k counselors and over 1 in 10 college-bound students nationwide.
- Counselors like you get access to amazing lesson plans (like [this one on scholarships & grants](#)) and student handouts via your [Resource Library](#). You can also track your students' scholarship application progress through [your own student dashboard!](#)
- Finally, you and your students get access to our free [FAFSA® Made Easier tool](#) (a better, improved version of the government form).

Parents of high school seniors have a lot to keep up with too! Share this [Parent College Planning checklist](#) to keep them in the loop.

### Going Merry-Parent Facebook Group & Financial Aid Webinar

Here are two new free resources for financial aid.

If you're looking for more resources to help pay for college, consider joining [Going Merry's Parent Facebook Group](#). Going Merry is a free scholarship and financial aid website and their Parent Facebook Group is a great place to ask questions, find scholarship opportunities, and learn the best ways to make college more affordable.

You can also [attend Going Merry's free Financial Aid Webinar](#). It's the perfect forum to learn about scholarship strategies, grants, appealing financial aid offers, student loans, and more.

[Join the Going Merry Parent Facebook Group here](#)  
[Register for the Financial Aid Webinar here](#)

[Check out FAFSA® Made Easier](#)



## Give me a P-S-A-T!

Taking the PSAT seriously gives students a good indication of their **competitive edge going into SAT or ACT prep**. Plus, high scores just might lead to **National Merit scholarships, too!**

Preparation is vital, and **we're here to help**.

That's why we're kicking off the school year with **FREE online prep** for the PSAT/NMSQT.

Applerouth's PSAT Prep Rally will give students:

- High-level strategies and test day tips
- A major confidence boost—trust us!
- Practice without pressure
- A scorecard with a play-by-play analysis

[Register Now](#)



## Class Information from the College Office

### Seniors Class of 2024

1. Seniors who met with Ms. Woods and have gone over the checklist, must now come back to check each page of the Common App for errors.
2. Any senior who has **not** met with Ms. Woods, needs to make an appointment and keep it to go over the senior checklist.
3. All applications must be in the College Office in the NDA folder-complete a week before it is due to the college...One folder per college.
4. Parents must sign the folder if the senior is not 18.
5. Senior grades will be sent in a Mid-Year Report in January to all colleges a student applied to.
6. See if any college needs a resume. This can be created in Naviance and then pasted in the Common App. Only do this if you do not have room to explain all activities/accomplishments in Common App.

### Juniors Class of 2025

1. Get ready for the PSAT by working on the Practice tests. There are now practice PSAT NMSQT items in Bluebook. Kahn Academy has items too.
2. Applerouth tutoring has practice for the PSAT that can help get ready for the test. Google **Applerouth** and set something up.
3. Establish yourself in clubs, activities, community service and sports...be a presence in the meetings or on the field of play.
4. If you have a job, what qualities are you developing that you are excited about??Are you a marketing genius? An Organizer? A closer?
5. Make some college visits this semester, if possible, to get an idea of the size of college campuses and what it means to be on your own on a big campus.
6. Complete the **Career Interest Profiler** and the **Personality Inventory both on Naviance under "Self-Discovery"**.  
Then make an appointment with Ms. Woods to go over the results. We will then look at careers, majors and colleges that have those majors.

### Sophomores Class of 2026 / Freshmen Class of 2027

1. We just introduced all 9<sup>th</sup> graders to the Bluebook app and the practice tests you find there. We administered the practice test August 29<sup>th</sup>. If you did not finish you can go back and work on the questions you did not do. Besides the Bluebook app, Kahn Academy has practice items as well. **Applerouth Tutoring** has PSAT practice sessions too.
2. Use Irish Time to see teachers.
3. Volunteer early so you can get projects done ahead of time. 4 per year is the requirement. Put the volunteer projects in Naviance before you forget them.
  - a. Log into Naviance
  - b. Go to the right top light blue circle and click.
  - c. Find resume.
  - d. Click the red circle with a plus sign on the right side.
  - e. Find volunteer services and click.
  - f. Fill in the necessary information about the service you completed.
4. If you feel you are in the wrong level of class or you are struggling with a class, come by the College Office to get help. Study skills are not something everyone has perfected.