



BAYLOR

College Counseling September Newsletter

SENIORS: It's Time to File Your FAFSA.



The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) will be available October 1. This is a required form for those seeking financial aid or the TN & GA HOPE scholarships. Please visit <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> to create an account and file online. Financial aid is often distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis, so don't delay!

Nearly 400 colleges require the [CSS Profile](#) in addition to the FAFSA as part of their financial aid application process. Click [here](#) to view a list of participating colleges.

*The college counseling office hosted the Director of Financial Aid at Emory University on September 1. Click [here](#) to view his presentation about the financial aid process.

FAFSA preparation checklist:

- An FSA ID (studentaid.gov/fsaid)
- Social Security Number
- Cash, savings, and checking account balances
- Records of untaxed income
- Investments other than your home
- Federal tax information or tax returns (Note: eligible applicants will be able to transfer (or import) this information into their FAFSA from the IRS)

[FAFSA overview video](#)

Juniors

College Representative Visits: Over 100 college representatives are scheduled to visit Baylor this fall. Juniors are encouraged to attend the meetings if the visit time is during a free period or lunch. The college visit schedule can be found in the Daily Announcements, on Naviance, and posted daily outside of the chapel.

Standardized Testing: Some students find it appropriate to take a standardized test in the fall of their junior year, whereas others elect to first test in February, March, or April. There is not one testing path that ensures exceptional standardized testing results; however, we encourage each student to prepare for each test.

Baylor will host a PSAT prep course this fall that is administered by The Princeton Review. Click [here](#) to register. Please note, endorsing test preparation companies is an imperfect science. Historically, Baylor students have enjoyed working with Dianne Bruce of [Rivercity Workshops](#) and The Princeton Review. Lest we forget, Baylor offers test prep sessions during Colloquium.

Mark Your Calendars! The College Forum will be held Saturday, February 4. This is a required event for all juniors, and parents are encouraged to attend.

Sophomores



The sophomore class played the “GPA game” on Tuesday, September 13 during Colloquium. The GPA Game introduces students to a holistic application review process, which many of our nation’s highly selective colleges use when determining admission. We showed them that many factors affect college admissions, not just their GPA.

The sophomores will establish their Naviance accounts on Thursday, September 15 during Colloquium. Naviance is the software Baylor students use throughout their college search and selection process.

Naviance has many tools to help align student strengths and interests to postsecondary goals. Students will also complete the StrengthsExplorer

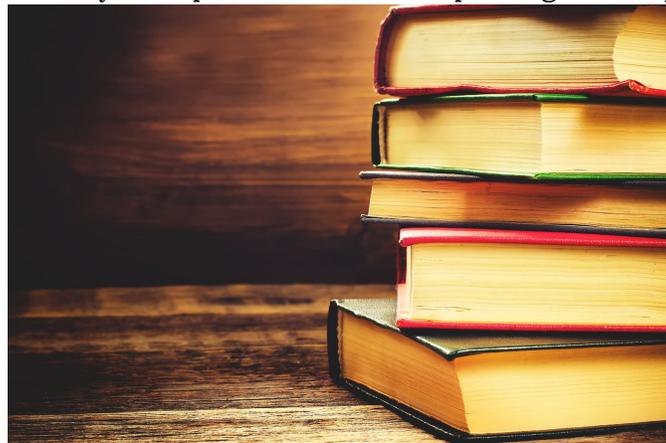
assessment, a strengths-based learning assessment that helps students identify and capitalize on their strengths rather than weaknesses. StrengthsExplorer identifies each student's strongest emerging talents and provides explanations of these themes, strategies for capitalizing on each, and action items to help students gain insight into their greatest talents to leverage in the classroom and in life.

Freshmen

Stephen Jackson, Director of College Counseling, spoke with the freshman class last week during Colloquium. Below you will find the main takeaways from his speech.

There isn't a single plan or path that guarantees admission to a college or university. Yes, there are exceptions to my statement, but what I can stress is that your interests, your investment in your classwork, and your commitment to meaningful activities beyond the classroom influence the schools you preference and the admission decisions you receive. It's what we call a student's "body of work," and it's the final portrait you will present to admissions committees across the country. So if you haven't given intentional thought to how you will use your time at Baylor, I recommend you listen carefully.

- **READ**: Reading makes you smarter, enriches your imagination, reduces stress, and makes you interesting and attractive!
- **EXPLORE**: Baylor provides countless academic and extracurricular offerings that will enrich your time here. Wasting time is a "fool's errand." Why participate in an activity that offers little personal growth?
- **GROW**: Don't be afraid to extend your knowledge of the world or yourself. I encourage you to develop interests and hobbies that will last a lifetime. Baylor provides local, regional, and international opportunities that will make your time here authentic and transformative.
- **CARE**: Take ownership of your learning. Own it. Pour your heart into. You might stumble along the way, but the more you invest in the process of learning, the more you will CARE, the more you will reach others and your true self. It takes courage to be a good student, and good students CARE about their education.
- **NOW**: We are only given a finite number of NOWS; time is precious, and you should treat your Baylor experience as both a privilege and a precious gift.



THIS MONTH'S UPCOMING EVENTS



September 13 and 15-Colloquium 201 and 202 for sophomores

September 16- Registration deadline for October 22 ACT

October 1-SAT

October 7-Registration deadline for November 5 SAT

October 6-10-Fall break, a great time to visit colleges

October 19-PSAT

October 22-ACT

Recommended Reading

[Where You Go Is Not Who You'll Be: An Antidote to the College Admissions Mania](#)

Author: Frank Bruni

Trivia Spotlight

Which three colleges claim to be the oldest public university in the United States?

September's Issue:

Name a Baylor faculty member who attended the University of Richmond.

Answer: Ms. Ott and Mr. Weaver

Which schools with a FBS football program have a mascot that does not end in the letter "S"? Answer: Alabama Crimson Tide, Illinois Fighting Illini, Marshall Thundering Herd, Massachusetts Minutemen, Navy Midshipmen, Nevada Wolf Pack, NC State Wolf Pack, North Texas Mean Green, Notre Dame Fighting Irish, Stanford Cardinal, Syracuse Orange, Tulane Green Wave, Tulsa Golden Hurricane

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