

# the ADVISOR

*The Advisor is the quarterly newsletter produced by the Presentation High School College Counseling Department. It contains current information about what's happening in the world of college admission.*



## NACAC

The National Association for College Admission Counseling is an organization of more than 15,000 members dedicated to serving students as they make choices to pursue post-secondary educational opportunities. Presentation High School and its college counselors are active members that strive to maintain the high ethical standards as outlined in the NACAC Code of Ethics.

NACAC hosts an annual conference in the fall of each school year that provides enriching professional development and networking opportunities for members. In September, Ms. Ishida traveled to Louisville, Kentucky to attend the annual conference. This year was a particularly eventful year, as sessions focused on topics such as the Varsity Blues bribery scandal, federal policy and legal developments associated with higher education, mental health, and challenges facing marginalized populations such as the LGBTQIA+ community and Asian-Americans. Over the past few years, there has also been growing interest in post-secondary options outside of the U.S. at the conference. Ms. Ishida also attended workshops and educational sessions that focused on college options in Ireland, the Netherlands, and the UK.

## UC NEWS

For the first time in several years, **the University of California** experienced a slight dip in overall applications this past cycle, however, this played out differently at each campus. For example, at UCLA where they saw fewer applications ended up increasing selectivity. UC Irvine received the most applications from California residents while at UC Riverside they admitted the most California students. One constant is the use of the waitlist. It does vary in usage for each campus and utilized for reaching specific institutional objectives.

The application platform was revamped over the summer. No significant changes regarding the platform or the personal insight questions. One of the main application updates was increasing the word count for the activities section. **Please find other useful application tips here.**

## CSU NEWS

CSU eligible students will be redirected to a campus with the capacity to admit more students if they are not admitted to at least one CSU during the initial application cycle. Redirection will occur in April, after admissions decisions are released. **Learn more about redirection.**

Per CSU requirements, students will receive communication from individual campuses to submit proof of immunization upon admission.

## FINANCIAL AID

Seniors, the 2020-2021 financial aid applications opened on October 1, 2019 with a deadline of March 2, 2020. Some students may be required to complete the **CSS profile** in addition to the free application for **student federal aid (FAFSA)**. Students must also submit the **Cal Grant verification form** to their college counselor to be considered for aid.



# COLLEGE ADMISSIONS TESTING

## *Juniors...SAT or ACT?*

- Juniors should be in the process of creating a testing plan for the year. Typically, most juniors will take their first SAT and/or ACT in the spring semester. Colleges do not have a preference on what test a student should take. Students can access free online test prep by using PrepSTEP in their Pres portal or through Khan Academy in their College Board account.
- In order to meet early application deadlines, students must complete their testing in October of their senior year. UC's and CSU's will allow students to test in December 2020.

## *Should I Take an SAT Subject Test?*

- All students are able to sit for SAT subject tests. The June test date is a perfect time for students to sit for these hour-long exams. We often get the question about “how important” are the SAT subject tests and our answer is, it depends. There are only a few colleges that require subject tests and students should consult with a college counselor if they have questions.
- **Compass Test Prep has provided a list of SAT subject test requirements and recommendations for students.**
- SAT subject tests can be taken multiple times and are not required to be shared with colleges. Generally, students can expect scores in the low-mid 700s will place them in the same ballpark as other applicants to the highly selective colleges that require subject tests.



## *ACT Announces Section Retesting and Online Testing*

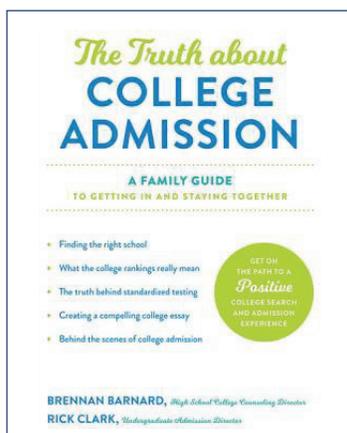
- ACT has announced that beginning in September 2020, students who've already taken the full ACT will be allowed to participate in section retesting. Section retesting must be done online. A student, for example, could decide to only retake Science. Although this change seems appealing, we recommend students not yet make tutoring or testing decisions based on section retesting until ACT provides more updates.
- Also starting in September 2020, ACT will make online testing available to students on national test dates. Students will still be able to take the paper/pencil tests. Online tests will be taken at a testing center. The test will be computer adaptive (similar to the GMAT and GRE). Again this change should not drive testing decisions.



# RADICALLY REIMAGINE ADMISSIONS

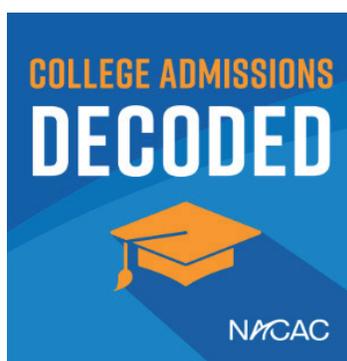
Operations Varsity Blues, also known as the 2019 College Admissions Bribery Scandal continues to make news as the charges made against the celebrity parents (e.g. Lori Loughlin) are announced. What is disheartening is how the true challenges and issues around equity and access in college admissions have been overlooked by this affair. A convening of researchers, educators, and change agents recently occurred from November 8-9, 2019 in Washington D.C. to discuss and explore revamped college pathways for marginalized communities. Hosted by Admissions Community Cultivating Equity & Peace Today (ACCEPT) and The Race and Intersectional Studies in Education Equity Center (RISE Center) of Colorado State University, this event is part of a series of conversations that will take place over the next year among college admissions stakeholders about the roles they play as gatekeepers to opportunity and perpetrators of race and class inequities. **Learn more about Hack the Gates.**

## READ, LISTEN & WATCH



### Read

*The Truth About College Admission: A Family Guide to Getting In and Staying Together* is an honest and insightful resource to empower families to tune out the noise and focus on the transformative power of the college application process. The book focuses on what really matters in the process and will help families remain focused on their own lived journey. This book is a much-needed resource for families!



### Listen

The *College Admissions Decoded* podcast features NACAC member-experts in conversations that speak directly to parents, families, and the general public to help demystify the college admission process. A must-listen during your long commute home!

### Watch

**The University of Pittsburgh**, also home to the Panthers, was a stop for Ms. Ishida before the annual NACAC conference in Louisville, Kentucky. California students will appreciate the neo-gothic architecture, strong sense of school pride, and the diverse community present on campus. Whether it be in the Swanson School of Engineering, Dietrich School of Arts and Science, the nursing program, or College of Business, students are able to explore a wide variety of course offerings at Pitt, especially because there are no caps on majors. Pitt students receive a “Pitt Pass” that gets them access to the picturesque Duquesne Incline and bus access to the north and south side of the city. Pittsburgh is home to American Eagle Outfitters world headquarters and other Fortune 500 companies like Dick’s Sporting Goods, U.S. Steel and PNC Bank.

Mr. Lorenzo had the chance to visit **University of Nevada, Las Vegas** in October. UNLV is a member of the **Western Undergraduate Exchange** program where students pay 150% of the in-state tuition in Nevada. Students interested in Nursing, Pre-Med track, and Hospitality Management. The William F. Harrah College of Hospitality provides concentrations in Restaurant Management, Gaming Management, PGA Golf Management, and Meetings and Events Management.