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**\*\* Coming Soon! Summer 2020: The Summer of Enrichment**-are you worried your child has fallen behind because of the school changes due to COVID 19? We are offering enrichment this summer to address these deficits including: organizational and time management skills, reading comprehension, writing skills, study and test taking skills, math, and science. (See our completed list of services below.) Our test prep services and college admissions consultation services continue to draw high school students. Act now to ensure your child's readiness for the Fall of 2020!

**\*\*Common App Update:** The new essay prompts have been sent to college admissions consultants like us. We are now working with rising seniors on these essays so that they are completed before summer break. Take advantage of this free time and sign up for essay services!

## Helpful Links

For info about SAT I, II, and AP Tests go to:  
[www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)

For info about ACT test go to:  
[www.act.org](http://www.act.org)

For info about test optional schools go to:  
[www.fairtest.org/university/optional](http://www.fairtest.org/university/optional)

## A Letter to the Class of 2020

Dear Members of the Class of 2020:

Whether you are graduating from pre-school, kindergarten, elementary, middle, or high school, college or graduate school, you are part of the most important graduating class in our world's history. You and your classmates have had to alter and sacrifice your vision of the perfect culmination and graduation ceremony to ensure the safety of each other, your friends, teachers, and family members. Though you did not have a choice in the matter, you have graciously accepted the alternative arrangements that have been made to mark this important milestone in your life, and that, in and of itself, is selfless and commendable.

While the pomp and circumstance of this moment has been altered a bit, this does not change how very proud we are of each of you for your accomplishments and the growth you have shown over the course of your academic careers.

No one will ever forget the Class of 2020, not only for your amazing achievements, but for the grace, sacrifice, and dignity you have demonstrated over these past few months. Revel in this moment-you deserve it. Congratulations graduates!

Sincerely and with pride,  
Hannah Bookbinder and the Coaches at AcademicAlly, LLC

## Survival Tips for Summer

Just when we are all acclimating to the unusual routines associated with this pandemic, families are not preparing to navigate the uncharted waters of a summer that may require further quarantine accompanied by a whole lot of uncertainty. It's understandable that the past few months have exacted a huge emotional and physical toll on everyone. Given the rapid nature of COVID 19's onset, few of us have had the time or energy to stop and reflect on all that has happened.

In an article written by Rosanna Castro, Erika Coles, clinical director at the FIU Center for Children and Families, shares some suggested steps parents and kids can take to process what they have been through and ensure they have a nice summer while staying home.

1. **Maintain a routine.** When kids don't have a routine they can follow, they tend to misbehave more and have more anxiety. For the summer, involve your kids in the process of creating their schedule for the day. It will make them feel empowered, and they will more likely follow the schedule, since they helped to create it. Find some fun activities they can do throughout the day and have them choose which ones they

For info about financial aid go to:

[www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov)

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

For college search info go to:

[www.collegenavigator.gov](http://www.collegenavigator.gov)

[www.collegeprowler.com](http://www.collegeprowler.com)

To take a virtual tour of college campuses go to:

[www.youniversitytv.com](http://www.youniversitytv.com)

To learn about Colleges That Change Lives go to:

[www.ctcl.org](http://www.ctcl.org)

The following schools have made the following changes to their testing requirements for admissions:

Albion College Test Optional Fall 2020

Alfred University Test Optional for Spring and Fall 2021

Alma College Test Optional for traditional first-year students between April 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021

Amherst College Test optional for freshman in 2020-21 admission cycle

Anderson University test optional now

Babson College Test optional for entry in Fall 2021

Baylor University Test Optional for 2021

Bethany College Test Optional Fall 2020

Boston University Test Optional for first-year students applying for Fall 2021 and Spring 2022

Briar Cliff University waving testing requirements for current high school seniors

Buena Vista University Test Optional for 2021

Butler University Test Optional for Fall 2021 and beyond, though some programs may still require standardized tests

California State University suspending use of SAT/ACT requirements for school year of 2021-2022

Case Western Reserve University Test Optional for students entering Fall 2021

want to do. While the schedule for the day doesn't have to be jam-packed with activities, make sure that bedtimes and mealtimes are as consistent as possible.

**2. Reward positive behavior.** Kids need and crave attention. Reward your child with positive praise when you catch them being good by saying things like, "I am so proud of you for cleaning up your room all by yourself." You should also leverage everyday things like screen time as a reward or give them a small prize for their positive behavior to continue to motivate them.

**3. Limit screen time.** All kids have been exposed to significantly more screen time since being in quarantine. Make sure you plan some fun outdoor activities they can do such as bike riding and soccer, and include some creative activities like family game nights, painting, or working on a complex puzzle or Lego set.

**4. Stay connected.** Take the time to continue to stay connected with others (both your children with their friends and you with other parents, family and friends). You can schedule virtual play dates or do a drive-by visit to friends and family.

**5. Incorporate academic time.** Help prevent summer learning loss by infusing some fun academic activities like reading and online activities from local museums.

**6. Get help.** The last few months have been a whirlwind for most families, and everyone has been doing their best to stay afloat. Most families haven't processed how the coronavirus has impacted their mental health and will continue to do so. Take some time over the summer to check in on your mental health and seek support for you and your child if you need it. It could be anything from helping you to manage your child's behavior at home to helping manage your child's worries and fears.

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Centre College Test optional for the following cycles:  
2021, 22, 23

Carolina Coastal University Test Optional for Fall 2021  
applicants with minimum 3.5 high school gpa

Colgate University Test Optional for students entering in  
fall 2021

College of Wooster Test Optional for 2021 and beyond

Concordia University Texas Test optional for entering  
classes in 2020 and 2021

Cornell Test Optional for 2021 applicants

Davidson College Test Optional for three years, starting in  
2021

Drury University Test Optional for Fall 2021 applicants  
and beyond

Eastern Michigan University Test Optional for Fall 2020,  
only for first-year domestic students.

Eckerd College Test Optional for two year pilot program  
Fall 2021-Fall 2022

Elon University Test Optional beginning Fall 2021 in a  
three year pilot program

Fordham College Test Optional for two year period  
beginning with fall 2021 class

Franklin College Test Optional for current high school  
seniors

Gonzaga University Test Optional for 2021 applicants

Grand Valley State Test Optional for Fall 2021

Hamilton College Test Optional for 2021-2022 academic  
year

Harvard University Released letter to current high school  
juniors stating that applicants entering in Fall 2021 will  
*not* be penalized if they do not submit AP test scores or  
SAT Subject Test scores. Juniors should not be concerned  
if they are unable to take the SAT or ACT multiple times

Haverford College Test Optional for first year and transfer  
applicants for three-year trial beginning with students  
entering Fall 2021

Indiana University Bloomington Test Optional beginning  
in 2021

Indiana University Fort Wayne Test Optional beginning  
with Spring 2021 and beyond



AcademicAlly, LLC is launching the Summer of Enrichment 2020. We know academic gaps have widened or developed for many students as a result of C19. We also know there is a strong likelihood that schools will return to a virtual model of learning next year. We want to help students and their families by offering them customized programs to bridge gaps and prepare them for the fall. We are focused on the areas listed below.

We will continue to offer distance learning until the CDC grants clearance for in-person sessions to take place. Take advantage of this valuable opportunity.

## Summer of Enrichment 2020

With our **individualized** programs, your student can still have a great summer AND keep those academic skills fresh.

Summer is the perfect time to **strengthen** academic skills, **get ahead** of the college admissions process, or **prepare** for classes this fall. (And we promise to make it fun!)

### SAT/ACT Test Prep:

- Learn helpful test taking strategies
- Determine which test is right for you
- Up-to-date information about testing in the face of COVID 19

### Writing Skills:

- Learn the value of pre-writing in order to organize thoughts and flow of a written piece
- Fine-tune editing skills, being mindful of proper punctuation and grammar
- Understanding how to effectively conduct research using key search words and appropriate resources, guided by strong essential questions
- Develop writing skills needed for creating a comprehensive paper

### Reading Comprehension:

- Learn how to identify and record important information
- Create a personalized system for organizing facts from the reading.
- Learn how to effectively research sources for research-based assignments
- Utilize strategies to break down readings into smaller more manageable chunks

### Math Skills: up to Calculus

### Science Skills:

Whether you are taking biology, chemistry, or physics, we can help you master this material!

### Organizational Skills:

- Establish time management strategies to better organize academic and personal responsibilities

Indiana University Kokomo Test Optional for Fall 2020 admission

Indiana University Northwest SAT/ACT scores requirements waived for students entering Fall 2020

Indiana University Southeast Test Optional for Summer and Fall 2020 enrollment

IUPUI Test optional beginning 2021 and beyond

Limestone College Test Optional for students entering Fall 2020. Students who have SAT and ACT scored are still encouraged to submit them

Loyola Marymount University Test Optional for Fall 2021 applicants

Mansfield University Test Optional for students entering Fall 2020. SAT/ACT scores are preferred for admission to certain programs, such as the B.S. in Nursing program. Admitted students who did not submit SAT/ACT scored (1) may need to take placement tests during orientation and (2) are eligible for a narrower range of merit awards

McMurry University (TX) Test Optional for Fall 2020

Mercer University Test Optional for first-year applicants for Summer or Fall 2020

Middlebury College Test Optional policy for at least 3 years, through Fall 2023, on a trial basis

Midway University (KY) Test Optional for Fall 2020

Millersville University Expanding its Test Optional policy to *all* students entering Fall 2020.

NCAA Eligibility Center Waiving SAT/ACT requirement for student-athletes entering Division I and II colleges in the 2020-2021 academic year. The Eligibility Center will also adjust its approach to pass/fail grades received in spring/summer 2020 by students at all grade levels

Northeastern University Test Optional for prospective students for the 2021-2022 academic year. Includes undergraduate and graduate students

Oregon State University Test Optional for undergraduates entering Fall 2021 and beyond

Pomona College Test Optional for first-year and transfer students entering Fall 2021

Purdue University Northwest Test Optional for Summer and Fall 2020

Rhodes College Test optional for 3 years, which will serve as a pilot project to determine if the Test Optional policy should continue

- Create personalized set of tools to better manage time
- Implement a system to affectively access, submit, and store assignments in a digital format
- Learn techniques and tools to organize personal space and belongings
- Establishment and maintenance of a homework protocol
- Effective self-advocacy and communication skills
- Self-accountability strategies

### College Admissions Consulting:

- Assistance with creating appropriate list of colleges to which to apply
- Brainstorming and editing college essays
- Admissions interview preparation
- Strategies to maximize college visits
- Knowledge about the changing landscape of college admissions in the face of COVID 19

We work with you to **customize** a plan to ensure your student's success. Spaces are filled on a first-come first-served basis. Act now while space is available.

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### Keeping on Track:

**Seniors:** Congratulations!! This month marks a major milestone in your lives! You worked hard to get here, even in spite of tremendous obstacles that were beyond your control. We are so proud of you.

Keep your eye on announcements from your chosen school. Colleges are working hard to create a plan of action for the incoming and returning students. Watch for announcements regarding changes in class starting dates, orientations, and COVID 19 plans of action.

**Juniors:** Congratulations on completing a year that was crazier than we all anticipated! Take advantage of this summer to participate in virtual college tours as well as information sessions. ([www.campustours.com](http://www.campustours.com) and [www.youvisit.com](http://www.youvisit.com) are great resources as well as the virtual tours the colleges are posting on their websites.) Look out for announcements regarding SAT and ACT test dates and courses of action each testing body is offering. If you do not feel safe or comfortable taking these exams in schools or testing centers because of concerns about COVID 19, don't take them. There are a tremendous number of colleges that have switched to "test optional" status. (See the left-hand margin of this eletter for a list of newly declared test-optional schools.) These tests are not worth risking your life.

Rochester Institute of Technology students can submit self-reported scores for Fall 2020. Students must submit official scores if admitted and they decide to enroll. Some programs are test optional for Fall 2020, Fall 2021, and beyond. RIT will be test optional.

Rutgers University Camden Test Optional Fall 2020

Rutgers University Newark Test Optional Fall 2020 and Fall 2021

Rutgers University New Brunswick Test Optional Fall and Spring 2021

Saint Louis University Test Optional for 2021-2022 academic year for most programs

Santa Clara University Test Optional for a two-year period for first-year and transfer students beginning with students entering Fall 2021. Will reassess whether to reinstate the testing requirement after the two-year period

Scripps College Test Optional for students entering in Fall 2021 and beyond. Homeschooled students are strongly encouraged to submit SAT or ACT scores

Seattle University Test Optional starting Fall 2021, GRE and GMAT will be optional for non-law graduate programs for the 2020-21 academic year

Southwest Baptist University **Temporary** changes include:

- Test-optional
- Self-reporting of high school GPA
- May take online Classic Learning Test (CLT) to improve academic scholarship eligibility

St. Edward's University Test Optional for undergraduate applicants for Fall 2021 and beyond

St. Olaf College Test Optional for Fall 2020

St.Thomas Aquinas College Test Optional for Fall 2020

Swarthmore College Test Optional for applicants during the 2020-2021 and 2022 cycles. Students can now choose to report results from previous tests, including the PSAT and PreACT. In Fall 2022, the college will assess the policy and determine whether to continue

Texas Christian University Test Optional for students entering in Fall 2021. Students should consider their academic record and co-curricular experiences when deciding whether to submit test scores

The College of New Jersey Test Optional for 2020-2021 admission cycle for a three-year time period. Does not apply to the 7 year medical program or optometry program.

The summer options may be limited, but there are still activities you can participate in and steps you can take on your own. Create your own face masks and donate them to a local nursing home or hospital. Get a bunch of friends together to write cards to residents of a local nursing home. The elderly are scared and lonely and could use some connection with the outside world. Similarly create a greeting card or poster for an isolated elderly neighbor and put it on their front lawn. Create a podcast about your C19 experience or what it's like to be a teenager during a major pandemic.

If you have not already done so, think about whom you want to ask to write letters of recommendation and ask them now. Popular teachers will fill up quickly.

Finally, start working on those personal statements!\*\*

**\*\*We are helping students with their college admissions essays now! Schedule your appointment today.**

## TEST UPDATES

ACT: Here is the link for the latest ACT information: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/covid-19.html>

SAT: Here is the link for the latest SAT information: <https://pages.collegeboard.org/sat-covid-19-updates>

**Pay it Forward: Do you know someone who is struggling with the shift to virtual classroom learning?? Send them this newsletter or forward us their contact information. We want to help!**

## Contact Us

<http://www.Academic-Ally.com>

[Hannah@Academic-Ally.com](mailto:Hannah@Academic-Ally.com)  
610 647-3959 ext. 105

Trinity University (TX) Test Optional for a 3-year period starting with applicants for Fall 2021. Applicants can self-report unofficial test scores via applicant portal.

Tufts University Test Optional for all undergraduates for a three-year period, beginning with students entering Fall 2021. This will determine whether to reinstate the testing requirement at the end of the three-year period.

Tulane University Test Optional for students applying for a spot in the class entering fall 2021

University of California System **Temporary** policy changed include:

- Test Optional for students entering as freshmen in Fall 2021
- No letter grade requirement for “A-G” courses taken in winter/spring/summer 2020
- Admissions will not be rescinded for students who miss the official transcript deadline- admission will be honored from the first day of class until official documents are received by the UC campus
- No cap on pass/fail units that transfer students may put toward the minimum needed for junior standing

University of Cincinnati Test Optional for 2 year period beginning with the 2021 applicants. Scores are still required for the Honors Program, the College of Nursing Direct-Admit BSN program, and the Early Childhood Education program

University of Connecticut Test Optional beginning with the 2021-2022 admission cycles

University of the Cumberland Adopting a Test Optional policy for current and future applicants. Test Optional applicants are still eligible for institutional grants and need-based aid

University of Hawaii at Manoa Test Optional for 2021-2022 years

University of Houston Test Optional for Summer and Fall 2020

University of Louisville Test Optional for Spring 2021, Summer 2021, and Fall 2021

University of Mobile Test Optional for Fall 2020

University of New England Test Optional for Fall 2020

University of North Carolina System Change in minimum admissions requirements: 2.5 GPA or 1010 SAT score/ 19 composite ACT score; **applicants must submit test scores** but the system schools may choose to admit based on GPA alone. Each UNC system school has freedom to set its own requirements above these minimums. Effective for a three-year period, beginning with students enrolling in Fall 2020

University of Oregon Test Optional for students entering Fall 2021 and beyond. Standardized tests scored will still be needed for certain automatic scholarships

University of Pittsburgh Bradford Campus Test Optional for Fall 2020

University of Richmond Test Optional for Fall 2021

University of Southern California Test Optional for 2021-2022

University System of Georgia Test Optional for students entering Summer and Fall 2020. Students without test scores must meet specific GPA thresholds. Applies to all USG schools except UGA and Georgia Tech, which have already have fall class waitlists

University of Toledo Piloting a Test Optional admissions model for Summer and Fall 2020. Test Optional NOT available to:

- Homeschooled students
- Students who attend high schools that do not report grades
- Students applying for majors in the colleges of Nursing, Engineering, and Health and Human Services will use self-reported grades and GPAs to conditionally admit students until final transcripts are available

University of Virginia at Wise Lifting test requirements for incoming freshmen and transfers with less than 30 credits

University of Washington Test Optional for Fall 2021

Vassar College Piloting a Test Optional policy for the 2020-2021 admissions cycle. Will evaluate after the one-year pilot to determine whether test-optional policy should continue

Virginia Tech Test Optional for 2020-2021

Washington and Lee University Test Optional for 2021 applicants

Washington State University Vancouver Test Optional for Fall 2020

Wellesley College Test Optional for first-year applicants entering in Fall 2021. Suspending the regular Decisions with Early Evaluation option for first-year applicants entering Fall 2021. Regular decision deadline move to January 8 from January 15

Westminster College (New Wilmington Pa) Waiving SAT/ACT requirements for students entering Fall 2020

William Mary Launching a three-year test optional pilot program with the 2021 academic year

Williams College Test Optional for students applying as freshman or transfers during the 2020-2021 admissions cycle. For students who choose to submit test scores, results will be considered as a part of the holistic admissions process. Due to school closings, remote learning, activity cancellations, and temporary changes in high school grading systems, they will grant additional flexibility and are willing to work with students affected by COVID-19 and their school counselor