

Seton Guidance Corner

February 23, 2023

A Peek Inside the Admissions Office: Application Review

The month of February is the time when admissions officers all across the country are hunkering down to review tens of thousands of applications. However, students are often unaware of exactly what happens once they hit “submit.” Below are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions about the application review process to give you a quick peek inside the admissions office.

1. **How many people will be reading my application?** This can vary from university to university, but your application will almost always be reviewed by at least two people before a final decision is made. Oftentimes, it will be reviewed 3, 4, or even more times by various groups of people. This can sometimes include faculty from the major or school of study to which you have applied.
2. **Do admissions officers *really* review every piece of my application?** Yes, that’s why the non-quantitative pieces of your application — such as your essays and extracurricular activities — are just as important as your test scores and grades. It’s also why you should thoroughly check your application for any grammar or spelling errors. One of the worst mistakes an applicant can make is spelling the name of the university wrong or writing an essay about another university entirely, and it happens more often than you would think!
3. **What are admissions officers looking for in my essays?** Think of the essay as the one opportunity that you have to tell the admissions committee something about yourself that they wouldn’t know otherwise. Admissions officers want to get a sense of your personality and what you’re passionate about from your essays. One important tip is to pick a topic that you enjoy writing about — if you’re bored writing your essay, chances are an admissions officer will be bored reading it.
4. **I’ve heard that the admissions office checks to see whether I’ve opened every email they’ve sent, is that true?** For the most part, no, but there are many universities that consider *demonstrated* interest as an important piece of your application. Demonstrated interest can include joining the mailing list, visiting campus, attending a local information session, completing an interview, or meeting with an admissions representative at a college fair. And even if demonstrated interest isn’t used by a university, it’s always a good idea to read emails from universities you’ve applied to. <https://acceptu.com/blog/a-peek-inside-the-admissions-office-application-review>

CLT8 – High School Readiness Exam

The CLT8 (Classic Learning Test) is a high school readiness assessment designed for 7th and 8th graders which can also be used as a tool to monitor academic progress. The online test is proctored by a parent at home and takes a total of 2 hours and 15 minutes. The test includes verbal reasoning, grammar/writing, and quantitative reasoning. To learn more and to register, visit <https://www.cltexam.com/tests/clt-8/>.

Boys State

This year's Boys State will be held June 18-24 at Radford University. For students interested in applying, email Mrs. Guyant at cguyant@setonschool.net for details by **Tuesday, February 28**. Interviews will take place at American Legion Post 10 in Manassas on Saturday, March 18, at 1 p.m. Candidates are evaluated based on qualities of leadership, character, scholarship, loyalty, and service. For more information about the program, visit www.vaboysstate.org/.

Girls State

This year's Girls State will be held June 18-24 at Longwood University. For students interested in applying, email Mrs. Guyant at cguyant@setonschool.net for details by **Friday, February 24**. Candidates for Virginia Girls State are chosen through an interview process conducted by the ALA Post 10 in Manassas on Saturday, March 18, at 1:00 p.m. Candidates are evaluated based on their leadership abilities and interest in government, service to others, and academics. For more information about the program, visit www.vagirlsstate.org.

CUA's Experiences in Architecture Program

The Experiences in Architecture program at the Catholic University of America is a summer high school program and pre-college workshop for students interested in architecture or other design-related fields. Students are exposed to both the academic and professional sides of the architectural arena, as the city of Washington, D.C., becomes their classroom. The program will prepare students for architecture school, giving students a head start, as well as acquainting them with campus life at the university level. Two- and three-week sessions are available. Deadline to apply is May 15. For more information, visit <https://architecture.catholic.edu/academics/pre-college/index.html>.

CLT, SAT, and ACT Registration Deadlines Coming Up

CLT Test Date – March 18 (Remotely Proctored)

Registration Deadline – March 13

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for CLT's free practice test.

SAT Test Date – May 6

Registration Deadline – April 7

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for free SAT practice test.

ACT Test Date – April 15

Registration Deadline – March 10

Click [here](#) to register.

[Signup](#) for free ACT test prep.

Scholarship Opportunities

Granville P. Meade Scholarship

Amount: \$2,000

Deadline: March 3, 2023

<https://app.goingmerry.com/scholarships/granville-p-meade-scholarship/18353?>

Scholarship to Reduce Student Loan Debt

Amount: \$500

Deadline: March 13, 2023

<https://app.goingmerry.com/scholarships/scholarship-to-reduce-student-loan-debt-2023/18510?>

Apple Federal Credit Union Scholarship

Amount: \$3,000

Deadline: March 15, 2023

<https://www.applefcu.org/AppleWeb/AppleScholarships>

Please note, opportunities in the Guidance Corner are not endorsements of the programs. They are shared as options for students and parents to carefully consider.