



VOLUME I  
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## Virtual College Fair: Wednesday July 22, 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The regional admission representatives from New York City (ROAM) are opening up their first Virtual College Fair to Massachusetts students on Wednesday, July 22 from 4:30 - 7:00 p.m. A diverse mix of universities from across the United States and abroad will be in attendance to speak about their institutions. Registration is now open. [Please click here.](#)

### Participating colleges include:

Bard College  
Binghamton University  
Columbia College Chicago  
DePaul University  
University of London  
Husson University  
IE University  
Indiana University at Bloomington  
Ithaca College  
Johnson & Wales University  
Le Moyne College  
Lesley University

Merrimack College  
Michigan State University  
North Carolina State University  
Purdue University  
Rutgers University  
Saint Louis University  
SUNY Geneseo  
SUNY Oswego  
Syracuse University  
The Ohio State University  
The University of Arizona  
Trinity College Dublin

University of California Santa Cruz  
Universidad de Navarra  
University at Albany (SUNY)  
University at Buffalo  
University College Cork  
University College Dublin  
University of Alabama  
University of British Columbia  
University of California Irvine  
University of Cincinnati  
University Of Massachusetts Lowell  
University of Minnesota

University of Pittsburgh  
University of Rochester  
University of Roehampton London  
University of South Carolina  
US Naval Academy  
Utica College  
Vanderbilt University  
Virginia Commonwealth University  
Wells College  
Xavier University

## First Things First: An Introduction to Colleges Wednesday July 22, 7:00 p.m.

Admissions counselors at the California Institute of Technology, Kenyon College, Smith College, the University of Chicago, and the University of Texas at Austin will discuss what makes the college experience at their institutions unique. [Register here](#)



## University of Pennsylvania Quaker Conversations: Students of Color

PANEL DISCUSSION

Wednesday, July 29, 8:00 p.m.



*Description from UPenn:* When asked why they chose Penn, our students frequently refer to the people here. During our Quaker Conversations prospective students will have the opportunity to hear from some of those people as they explore communities across the University. In this session, students of color will share their experiences navigating, exploring, and celebrating their identities at Penn. [Register here](#)



## Workshop Wednesdays with Macalester College: Wednesdays at 4:00 p.m.



Every Wednesday at 4:00 PM for the next seven weeks Macalester College will be offering workshops on a variety of college admission topics, including the college search process, the college essay, letters of recommendation, diversity and inclusion, financial aid, application tips and pointers, completing the Common Application, what is a liberal arts education. Check out the offerings at Macalester Workshop Wednesdays, and register for the ones that interest you.

[Register here](#)

### HANDBOOK HIGHLIGHTS:

## The Common Application

Remember the Common Application account you opened during your April Decisions class? After a brief shut-down at the end of this month, the Common Application will go live for the 2020-2021 college application cycle starting on August 1st. You will receive an email prompting you to log in and update your application to reflect that you will be applying this coming year. If you have already filled some of it out, great job! The work you completed in the main **Common App tab** will reappear in your account.

Working on the Common Application is a great way to feel productive and make tangible progress on your college process, which we know has been impeded by the pandemic this year. Starting your senior year with the Common App tab complete will give you a great feeling of accomplishment and clear the deck for you to do your best work as a senior. You may be unsure about answering some of the questions in the Education section or other areas of application, but we can walk you through this when we return to school or you can email us for guidance over the summer.

**The Common App tab** includes the writing section which houses your essay (the Personal Statement). Hopefully you have been working on that over the last two months. The essay is a significant component of your application and you will feel great about having it done (or at least making progress on it). Don't forget that **a draft of your essay is due to your college counselor by email on August 1**. We will get back to you during August with feedback. Feel free to submit it earlier if the draft is ready for review.

Don't forget that you will need to answer specific questions for each college in the Common Application. As you add colleges to your **My Colleges tab** in your Common Application account, notice that each has a separate set of questions for you to answer, some requiring additional written responses or even another essay. When the Common Application goes live on August 1st, all the college-specific information will be updated so if you did any work in that part of your account you should revisit this section as your work likely was not saved and you will want to see what each college is requesting with this year's application.

### THE SMARTIES CORNER

#### THE COLLEGE CALENDAR: UPCOMING DATES & DEADLINES

- JULY 27:** Registration opens for ACT exams
- JULY 31:** Registration deadline for August 29 SAT
- AUGUST 1:** College essay draft due to your college counselor
- AUGUST 1:** Common Application for 2020-2021 becomes active

The Common Application is accepted by about 900 colleges, so there is a possibility it will be the only application you will need to complete. However, on occasion you will have a college that requires the Coalition Application or only uses their own application. These platforms usually ask for similar information as the Common Application, so they are often easy to fill out once you have completed your Common Application. You can even use the same essay for the Coalition Application that you wrote for the Common Application. As you identify the colleges where you plan to apply, make note of which application platform they use so that you can prepare properly.



## ACADEMIC SPOTLIGHT:

**“Green Majors”** Studying the Environment

These days, there is a heightened concern for taking care of the environment, especially among teenagers who are eager to support this movement and have an impact on environmental issues from climate change to sustainability. At Thayer, students who have taken the AP Environmental Science class or gone through the Global Scholars Program often feel inspired to pursue a career related to the work they did in those eye-opening courses. In fact, the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics says that job growth is expected to continue rising as this field grows in value and diversity. That said, there is often confusion over the many paths interested students can take. We hope that this explanation will help you better understand the options that might suit your strengths and interests.

First, it's important to understand that the study of the environment involves many different areas. There are obviously the scientific aspects of the environmental world (biology, chemistry, geology, etc), but you must also learn about how that impacts the people and animals that live in the environment (psychology, economics, law, political science, etc). For that reason, this field of study is considered to be interdisciplinary. The variety of directions you can take within the field is dictated by your own academic leanings, abilities, and interests. Here are some of the options:

**Environmental Science:** categorized as a Bachelor of Science degree, this major will help you to understand the workings of the environment in a scientific and mathematical way, how the environment impacts organisms of all kinds, and methods in which you could approach current problems. Colleges with more breadth and depth in their programs will offer concentrations within this major which allow for specialization. Examples include: marine science, conservation science, geoscience, wildlife ecology, and many more. Students pursuing this track are often interested in pursuing careers grounded in science, either working in labs or in the outdoors as specialists.

**Environmental Studies:** this is commonly a Bachelor of Arts degree. Although students may have a basic foundation in math and science coursework, the majority of required classes will take more of a policy approach, focusing on areas such as public policy, the economy, societal issues, and other humanities-oriented topics. Similar to environmental science, colleges may have several tracks for students to pursue, including: sustainability, environmental policy reform, urban development, etc.

In recent years, a few other majors have emerged as increasingly popular:

**Environmental Engineering:** if you major in environmental engineering (this major is not terribly common), then your goal is to create and/or improve systems that deal with pollution, recycling, waste, etc. Like any engineer, you like to build and solve and work collaboratively with a team.

**Sustainability:** a sustainability degree is a mix of business, social sciences, environmental science, and economics in the hopes that students go on to be a voice in minimizing the impact humans have on their environment.

While it is certainly true that colleges offer the above majors, it is also true that colleges vary widely in their naming of related majors and they will leverage the interdisciplinary nature of the topic and combine two or three related areas into one major (i.e. Environmental Science and Health; Environmental Nutrition, Food Systems Sustainability and Health; Environment, Sustainability, and Policy). When looking into this major, you should be clicking on the departmental websites and digging deeper into potential concentrations. You might be surprised at all of the exciting nooks and crannies you expose! There's great potential for you to find a niche that feels comfortable.

[Niche Ranking of Environmental Science Majors by College](#)

[“How to Study Climate Change in College,”  
U.S. News and World Report](#)

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