

College Newsletter

News and tips for high school students and parents

Welcome

This is the first of Atlanta Classical Academy's quarterly college newsletters with information and announcements for high school students and parents. These pages will also serve to remind you of our philosophy of education for high school and beyond. To that end, Dr. Moore begins a *College Search Series* below to help students and parents navigate the days ahead.

Information and Announcements

- APS and Achieve Atlanta are offering a "How to Pay for College Workshop Series" in December and January to help students and families understand the scholarships available to them in Georgia, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), and other subjects of import. Click [here](#) for the schedule of events.
- Our own Mr. D. Han is offering an SAT/PSAT Prep Club *for 10th graders in Algebra II or above* designed to help students develop the necessary techniques and strategies to succeed in every section of upcoming tests. This club will meet, starting on January 18th, every Wednesday (7:00-7:30 a.m.) and the first Saturday of each month (9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.). The club fee is \$50, plus the price of books.
- In addition to offering the PSAT on site beginning in 9th grade, Atlanta Classical Academy plans to offer AP tests and one SAT in the spring of students' junior year.
- Sign up for an individual College Board account [here](#). This account will give students access to SAT, AP, and PSAT scores, test registration, and college planning resources. Upon taking the PSAT, students will also be able to register for Khan Academy's personalized practice plan. Parents may sign up to receive College Board emails as well.
- When visiting colleges and sending test scores, you may need a CEEB code. The code for Atlanta Classical Academy is 110304.



Have a conversation with your child about any geographical or financial considerations.

Help them investigate summer opportunities to enhance their skills and CV.

Direct any and all college-related queries to [Ms. Marcellino](#).

Spring Semester: Expect to see 2-3 more college events offered to high school students next semester, including events with a local military liaison and Georgia institutions.

Did You Know? The word “college” comes from the Latin *collegium*, meaning “community, society, or guild.” It was not until the 19th century that the word took on a solely academic meaning at the Universities of Oxford and Cambridge in England.

Why Go to College?

Part 1 of a College Search Series by Dr. Moore

We hear a great deal these days about the trials and tribulations of getting into college, or, as the undertaking is often described, “getting into the right college.” Some folks seem determined to make us anxious about the whole affair. The testing and college-prep industry is a booming business. Every year we are peppered with new rankings of these institutions. And the colleges certainly have an incentive to label themselves “selective” since selectivity adds to prestige and tuition rates. Worried parents around the nation, whose children often make higher grades than they did, cannot help wondering whether their children will get into any decent college, much less the ones they attended, which now for some reason appear almost out of reach. How, then, are we to help our students prepare for and to make prudent decisions in this confusing world of college entrance?

The first step we must take is figuring out *why* young people should go to college in the first place. In today’s culture, a college degree is assumed by an increasing majority of families, so “the why question” rarely comes up. Yet, as with so many other aspects of human life, by answering the *why question* first we are led to purposeful answers of the *how* and *where* questions.

The question of why to go to college is actually answered simply and beautifully in the mottos of



colleges and universities across the land, and it is usually written in Latin.

Veritas (truth): Harvard

Lux et veritas (light and truth): Yale

Vox clamantis in deserto (a voice crying in the wilderness): Dartmouth

Leges sine moribus vanae (laws without morals are in vain): University of Pennsylvania

Virtus tentamine gaudet (strength rejoices in a challenge): Hillsdale

Crescat scientia vita excolatur (let knowledge grow and so human life be enriched): University of Chicago

Lux libertas (light, liberty): University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Et docere et rerum exquirere causas (to teach, to serve, and to inquire into the nature of things): University of Georgia

Obviously, Harvard, founded in 1636, beat all the other colleges to the punch. That simple, shining word *truth* captures the ultimate aim of our efforts in humane learning. The pursuit of truth the

promise holds—will lead us to light, liberty, happiness.

Although this way of talking about education has been in remission for the last half century or more, it should be quite familiar to students of Atlanta Classical, who begin their school day with the words, “I will learn the True; I will do the Good; I will love the Beautiful.” This is no small achievement. Our students already *speak the language, we might say, of this nation’s institutions of higher learning: at least the language they spoke when they were first founded and throughout most of their history.*

Valuable for its own sake, understanding the true aims of education has practical applications for college admissions. First, it acts as a constant reminder of the primary criterion for college entrance: a solid academic record. Colleges remain institutions devoted to study. Those who have proven themselves capable of handling a demanding academic program are sought after by colleges. College professors are frankly tired of having to remediate their students, particularly freshmen, in core subjects. Furthermore, college admissions officers are not blind: they can see the difference between a genuinely rigorous academic program and the standard unchallenging fare. Colleges in this country worry about attrition rates. They are seeking students who can thrive on their campuses.

Second, understanding the true aims of education serves as a guide in finding colleges that

remain committed to their founding principles. The college entrance equation does not just amount to colleges accepting or not accepting students. It also demands that students investigate, evaluate, and make good decisions about colleges, particularly with regard to how seriously colleges are pursuing their stated and historical missions. This is a far cry from applying to X college because it has Y reputation. Rather, the search for “the right college” should prompt students to consider not just “what they want to do when they get out” (i.e. what job they may have) but also what kind of human beings they want to be after four years of intensive study and throughout their lives.

Third, understanding the higher aims of higher education prepares students for the conversation they will have at the college: first with admissions officers and then, more importantly, with professors. As we shall discuss further, admissions officers are deeply committed to their colleges and knowledgeable about them. They are the gatekeepers for who gets in. Their job is to select students who can both perform academically and also contribute to the unique culture of the institution. In short, they are looking for students who will quite naturally join the conversation of higher learning.

Our students, then, should begin their college search by thinking deeply about and articulating why they want to be in college in the first place. This important exercise will transform speculation and inquiry into reality.

CHECK IT OUT!

We have been working on devoting an entire section of our website to college information, news, and resources. Now, you can electronically access our high school course list (including expected AP courses), a required credits breakdown, a 4-year student timeline of important tests, deadlines, activities, and other resources for your own investigation into financial aid options and summer opportunities.

We appreciate your patience as we continue to lay the necessary groundwork for our growing school.

