

### **Dear Junior Students,**

We would like to share some information we have received and continue to receive from colleges with respect to their response to the Covid-19 Pandemic. We hope this alleviates some of the concerns you have regarding the college admissions process. Additionally, we would encourage you to seek out information directly from any college website as they continue to update as the situation unfolds. We know that these are unprecedented times, which can be quite unsettling, but we also want you to know that the colleges are certainly understanding of the circumstances.

### **Northeastern:**

“We know that entire communities have had to change their teaching and learning practices in an instant, and that many people are anxious about how that will impact grades and final exams. Northeastern respects each school district’s pedagogy and will be thoughtful about the impact of this spring as we work with students entering as first-years and as we evaluate students for admission in the coming years.”

### **Middlebury:**

“We have received a number of questions about how the college admissions landscape might change for current high school juniors (and younger students) given all the disruptions being caused by the global response to the coronavirus outbreak. Schools have devised different ways to cope with closures and the cancellation of in-person classes; many have come up with their own internal policies regarding final grades, exams, and transcripts. At Middlebury, we expect that students will continue with their studies as instructed by their schools. Be assured that factors out of a student’s control will not affect their application to Middlebury. If students are unable to take final examinations or if their end-of-year transcripts will look different than previous transcripts have looked, for example, we will of course adapt to the changes that come our way in next year’s batch of applications. We have faith in our secondary school colleagues to navigate and make decisions that are best for their school community. This is an evolving situation, and we recognize the stress this transition has caused students and their families, so we hope to reassure you that we will remain flexible.”

### **Hamilton:**

“We recognize your school year has been altered in significant ways. Whether your school calendar has been truncated or ended abruptly, or if your academic program has been converted to remote learning or a new grading scale, we understand these matters are beyond your control. As always, your high school achievement will remain the most important piece of your application to Hamilton, and we remain committed to evaluating each individual application within the context of your school offerings and home environment. **Standardized Testing:** Given the cancellation of spring SAT and ACT exams, the uncertainty of future test dates, and the overall extraordinary circumstances so many of our prospective families face, **Hamilton has decided to temporarily change its testing stance from “test flexible” to “test optional” for all first-year and transfer applicants for the 2021-22 academic year.** Applicants may still submit **standardized testing scores**, but they will not be required to apply for admission.”

**St Lawrence University:**

“Your school might be making decisions about grades in the final part of this school year. Please know that we will be looking at grades for this semester within the context of the pandemic, and pass/fail grades are not going to hurt your students in their application to St. Lawrence.”

**Williams College:**

“**Test Optional for the 2020-2021 Application Cycle:** Students applying to Williams as first-years or transfers during the 2020-2021 admission cycle have the option of applying under a test-optional policy. This change has been instituted for next year only, in response to the extraordinary challenges facing all of us during the COVID-19 pandemic. For students who choose to submit standardized test results, those results will be considered as part of our holistic admission process that strives to center students and their unique lived experiences. **Additional Flexibility in the Admission Process:** We understand that the pandemic has led to school closings, shifts to remote learning and pass/fail grading policies, cancellations of co-curricular activities, and a host of other disruptions that dramatically impact students’ experiences. You can be certain that we’ll be flexible in working with students and families no matter what challenges or limitations they’ve faced. None of us know what the next few months will hold, but our commitment to getting to know students and their stories will remain at the core of everything we do.”

**Harvard:**

“Spring Semester Grades: We know that many students will only be able to present pass/fail grades or other similar marks on their transcripts this spring. They will not be disadvantaged as a result.”

**Case Western:**

“Three weeks ago our faculty senate unanimously approved a test-optional admissions policy for students entering in the fall of 2021. This applies to all fall 2021 undergraduate applicants and all programs....We understand the policy changes that have occurred at many high schools as educators adapt to online classes and calendar shifts. We will not penalize students with pass grades on their transcripts for this period. We will accept pass grades for college credit when appropriate. Our own students have been given the pass/no pass option for all their spring courses.”