



St. Olaf College

TRIO Educational Talent Search

REPORTER

In this Issue

Note from the Director
page 2

New Advisor Article
page 2

EOA Conference
page 3

St. Olaf College Visit
page 3

Mentoring Update
page 4

Senior Checklist
page 5

FAFSA Update
page 6

Wallin Scholarship
page 6

Paying for College
page 7

TRIO on Social Media
page 8

Spring ACT Dates
page 9

[tutor.com](https://www.tutor.com)
page 9

Physics Experience Day with St Olaf College

By Anna Schmid, Academic Advisor

On Thursday, November 30th, TRIO ETS advisors took 9th-12th grade students from Community of Peace Academy and Humboldt High School to Physics Experience Day at St. Olaf College. The students who attended the field trip had the opportunity to visit St. Olaf College and view, along with several St. Olaf College students, the physics experiments they had created in both Eric Hazlett's class and Professor Emily Mohl's class. They also got to participate in activities that relate to electrons and heat transfer. Afterwards all of the TRIO ETS students who attended had a pizza lunch with the St. Olaf college students and professors. This was our first year collaborating with St. Olaf classes and we hope to do more interactive college class visits like this in the near future!



Message from Director

By Juan Telles

This fall, the St. Olaf TRIO ETS team went right to work to make connections with middle school students as well as 9th & 10th graders for presentations, and advisors had college visits with the 11th & 12th graders. They also had one-to-one meetings with the 12th graders to prepare them for college applications. The mentor program had a late start but is partnering with two classes from Humboldt and one class from Community Peace Academy, both schools in St. Paul. We have 50 St. Olaf college students who are participating as mentors! This year, we also partnered with the Physics course, taught by Eric Hazlett at St. Olaf College, to bring ETS students to campus to experience the Physics labs and participate in the 2nd year student's Physics projects.

I am very proud of our progress this year so far. I am also proud of the St. Olaf TRIO ETS team for their dedication to the program and the hard work they are putting in this year!

This coming spring, we look forward to providing more college visits, as well as a field trip to St. Olaf College for our mentees. We are also excited to announce that St. Olaf TRIO ETS is hosting Southern Pre College TRIO Day on April 27, 2024!

New ETS Advisor!

Greetings to the ETS Family! My name is Aztlan Thao, but you may also refer to me as Azi! I will be joining the St. Olaf TRIO ETS team as a new academic advisor, and I could not be more excited to work with you all! A little bit about myself, I graduated from the College of St. Benedict and Saint John's University in May of 2023. As a third year student, I was fortunate enough to be able to study abroad in London, UK. During my time there, I engaged in a number of activities such as exploring museums, visiting iconic landmarks and neighborhoods, experiencing plays and musicals, and enjoying delicious street food!



Outside of work, I enjoy regular gym sessions to keep me feeling energized and healthy, trying new foods, listening to music (a necessary daily ritual), and relaxing by playing video games! I love trying new things, so if you have any music, video game, or food recommendations, reach out and let me know!

Before becoming a TRIO ETS Academic Advisor, I worked for TRIO Upward Bound for 3 summers as both a Teaching Assistant and Residential Staff. Working in TRIO as a college student made me fall in love with working with and inspiring students who are underrepresented in the education system. As an academic advisor, I am looking forward to getting to know you all and working with you to ensure that your dreams and goals are achieved!

TRIO ETS Attends EOA Conference

By Anna Schmid, Academic Advisor

This November, St. Olaf College TRIO ETS team attended the Educational Opportunity Association's (EOA) Annual Professional Conference. This year's conference was in Detroit, Michigan at the Detroit Marriott at the Renaissance Center. The theme this year was EOA CAN (Community, Action, and Now). Each advisor attended different sessions on a variety of topics and they gained lots of new information to bring back to our students to grow as a program. Our very own TRIO ETS academic advisor Kali Hickman and TRIO ETS director Juan Telles presented a concurrent session "Redefining Professionalism: For Ourselves and Our Students", which generated a lively and productive conversation. It was an informative and enjoyable conference, and we also got time to explore Detroit!



St Olaf College Visit

By Anna Schmid,, Academic Advisor

On Thursday, October 19th, during MEA weekend TRIO, ETS advisors took 9th-12th grade students from Community of Peace Academy, Edison High School, and Humboldt High School to Fall Visit Day at St. Olaf College. The students who attended the field trip had the opportunity to visit St. Olaf College, located in Northfield, Minnesota, and learn about the requirements, majors, extracurricular activities, and more! Students attended information sessions, and a panel with current St. Olaf college students, got a tour of the campus, received swag bags, and had the opportunity to eat lunch in the cafeteria like a St. Olaf college student. Students were excited to go on this field trip, and some have even decided to apply to St. Olaf because of this visit! We hope to do more college visits like this in the near future. Take a look at some photos below!



Mentoring Update and Field Trip Highlights

By Anna Schmid, Academic Advisor

TRIO Educational Talent Search has the mentoring program running in two of our target schools; Humboldt High School and Community of Peace Academy, both in St. Paul. At Humboldt High School we are working with one 6th grade class and one 6th-8th grade class. At CPA we are working with one 9th grade class. In total, we have over 50 wonderful St. Olaf College students volunteering as mentors for over 50 6th- 9th grade students. This has been a great opportunity for St. Olaf College students to get involved with TRIO ETS and for them to be college role models to our ETS students.

Mentors and mentees correspond with one another via letter writing each month. In their letters, mentors get to know their mentees and share their interests, backgrounds, and educational experiences. Mentors share information about what college is like, how you should prepare for it, and even how to pay for college. Throughout the year, mentors and mentees will meet face-to-face twice. Our first visit with our Humboldt middle school mentees and their mentors was on Tuesday, December 5th, 2023. We went to the Science Museum of Minnesota in St. Paul. They spent the day participating in get-to-know-you ice-breakers, visiting and exploring different exhibits, IMAX movies and science shows, and they enjoyed a delicious lunch of pizza together. That makes us very excited for our upcoming field trips with our and CPA mentees, and this spring when all the mentees visit their mentors at St. Olaf College!



Senior Winter Checklist

By: Kali Hickman, Academic Advisor

Hello ETS Seniors! With winter break around the corner we want to remind you of where we'd like you to be in the college and FAFSA application process. Remember, applying to colleges and filling out your FAFSA doesn't mean you have to go to college, but doing so ensures that you have that option available to you. All of the ETS advisors will continue to call seniors to our office to fill out college applications and FAFSA. Below is a brief timeline of deadlines:

December

1. If you haven't already, submit your college applications! Many institutions have January deadlines for applications, so make sure to get those in as soon as you can. Ideally, you will at least apply to a safety, target, and reach school.
2. Check your school email frequently to get updates from your ETS advisors.

January

1. Complete the FAFSA process. Before sitting down to complete your FAFSA, be sure both you and your parent/guardian have created an FSA ID. This login will be what you both use to sign the FAFSA, and takes up to 3 days to process. ETS advisors will be available to complete the entire process with you.

February

1. If you are selected for FAFSA verification, complete the necessary paperwork as soon as possible. You can reach out to your ETS advisor if you are unsure if you have been selected for verification.
2. Start researching different scholarships and their deadlines.

March

1. Check your school email and make an appointment with your ETS advisor to review your financial aid letters until you understand them completely
2. Start applying for scholarships! Even if you don't think you'll get it, apply anyway! The more scholarship money you get, the fewer loans you'll have to take out.

April

1. Decide which, if any, college you want to attend, notify the school of your decision, and send in a deposit by MAY 1st! *Note: A deposit is needed to secure your place in the class. If you are planning to live in dorms or other campus housing, another housing deposit may be required. If this is a hardship on your family, you can call the college to make different arrangements. They are flexible!*
2. If you are not planning on going to college, make sure you have an alternate plan. Be sure to talk this over with your caretakers and your ETS advisors. We are here to help!
3. Meet with your academic or ETS advisor to make sure you are on track to graduate high school.

May

1. Celebrate! Despite everything going on in your life and everything that has happened with Covid and virtual learning, you still managed to accomplish so much!
2. Figure out what high school transcripts will be sent to your future college and how they will need to be sent.
3. Find out about any TRIO SSS, multicultural, or student support programs at your future college and find out how to get involved! Let your ETS advisor know if you need help with this.



FAFSA Timeline Updates for 2023-2024

By Anna Schmid, Academic Advisor

This is not an average year for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA is usually open from Oct. 1 to March 2 but this year the FAFSA application is not going to open until the end of December 2023. The exact date still hasn't been announced but you can check for the latest announcements on the fafsa website: <https://studentaid.gov/h/announcements-events>

Why is the FAFSA opening so much later this year? Well, the FAFSA process for students has been criticized for being too detailed, too long, too confusing, and overwhelming, so the federal government is addressing those concerns and revamping the FAFSA. These changes are a result of something the "FAFSA Simplification Act", or the "Better FAFSA".

So what will change this year? With the "Better FAFSA" the application will not be as long as previous years. The original FAFSA application was over 100 questions but now it will be fewer than 50 questions. Of those fewer questions the "Better FAFSA" is working to make sure the questions asked are easier to understand.

Another change with the "Better FAFSA" is how the FAFSA will measure eligibility for student aid. There will be a new metric to determine how much a student can qualify for aid. The federal government says this will allow students with larger financial need to have more chances for more aid and allow more students to qualify for grants. The California Dream Act, which provides aid for undocumented students, is also undergoing changes and not open until the FAFSA opens.

Attention St. Olaf TRIO ETS Seniors!

The **Wallin 4-Year Scholarship** will be open **until midnight, on Thursday, February 1, 2024**. Your TRIO ETS academic advisors can help you start and finish your Wallin-4-Year Scholarship application! Here is the Wallin website (www.wallinpartners.org/apply) to apply! If you start your application make sure you select "St. Olaf TRIO ETS" as your college access program when you are applying.

Eligibility Requirements

- Graduating senior (Class of 2024)
- Minimum 3.0 GPA (unweighted)
- Demonstrated [financial need](#)
- Enrolled in Fall 2024 in an accredited, 4-year, public or private institution in: Iowa, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Any Historically Black College or University (HBCU) in the nation

Email your TRIO ETS academic advisors to set up a time to apply!

Community of Peace Academy: Junior Avalos (avalos1@stolaf.edu) and Kali Hickman (hickma2@stolaf.edu)

Humboldt High School: Kali Hickman (hickma2@stolaf.edu) and Azi Thao (thao45@stolaf.edu)

Edison High School: Azi Thao (thao45@stolaf.edu) and Anna Schmid (schmid22@stolaf.edu)

Parents: Paying for College

By Aztlan Thao, ETS Academic Advisor



Did you know that college students are graduating with an average of \$30,000 in school loan debt? That is hard to imagine, but that is a lot of money! Here are some steps you can take TODAY to make sure you are not in over your head with college debt by the time you graduate.

1. **Encourage your student to take classes in High School that will count towards a college degree!**

Some of these includes PSEO, CIS, AP, IB and Career and Technical Education classes. They are all **FREE** and they allow your student to earn High School and College **CREDIT** at the same time! Not sure on how to sign up for one of these classes or programs? No worries! All your student needs to do is talk to their school counselor or ETS advisor to get started!

2. **Stay involved!**

Whether your student is in sports, yearbook club, Boys and Girls club, theatre or volunteering to give back to the community, they all count! Being involved in extracurricular activities will make your student a great candidate for their colleges and scholarship applications.

3. **Start a College fund!**

Instead of buying expensive gifts for birthdays, holidays and special occasions, consider putting part of your money away for your student's future. These include a piggy bank or opening a savings account for them at your local bank.

4. **Apply for SCHOLARSHIPS!**

Encourage your student to talk to their school counselor, teachers or an ETS advisor to find out more about what scholarships are available. Scholarships can come from religious communities, local banks and even your place of employment. These institutions often have scholarship funds available, you just have to ask and do some research.


5. **Complete your FAFSA in a timely manner**

Filing your taxes and completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) during your student's senior year are the first steps to receiving any type of federal financial aid. Many scholarships, such as the Power of You, require it and your student can't qualify for grants or aid unless you submit your FAFSA. ETS collaborates with high schools for annual FAFSA night; where we help students and their families to complete their FAFSA application and go over the financial aid process. Have your student talk to their school counselor or an ETS advisor about upcoming FAFSA night!

6. **Review your Financial Aid Package with an ETS advisor**

ETS is here to help your student! Do not be afraid to set up a meeting with an ETS advisor to review financial aid award letters; we will explain what everything means and answer any of your questions. We can also help you compare the costs of the various colleges your students have applied to so that they can make an informed decision about what college they will attend.


Follow TRIO ETS On All Our Social Media Pages!





Follow Us

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook!

Stay up to date on all the latest TRIO ETS news and events by following us on Instagram and Facebook!

 **Instagram**
Follow us!

 **Facebook**
Like our page!

 **Visit us online!**
sites.google.com



Use your Cell Phone Camera to Scan the QR Code and follow us on Instagram, Facebook, and our Student Google Site!

Instagram: [instagram.com/trioets/](https://www.instagram.com/trioets/)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/trioetsstolaf/>

Student Google Site:

sites.google.com/stolaf.edu/trio-ets/home?authuser=0

Minneapolis Locations

- **Breck School**
Center Code: 192780
Test Dates:
 - June 8th, 2024
- **DeLaSalle High School**
Center Code: 204220
Test Dates:
 - April 13th, 2024
 - June 8th, 2024
- **Edison High School**
Center Code: 204030
Test Dates:
 - April 13th, 2024
- **Minnehaha Academy Upper School**
Center Code: 248420
Test Dates:
 - February 10th, 2024
- **Washburn High School**
Center Code: 196910
Test Dates:
 - February 10th, 2024
 - April 13th, 2024

Saint Paul Locations

- **Bethel University**
Center Code: 020880
Test Dates:
 - February 10th, 2024
 - April 13th, 2024
 - June 18th, 2024
 - July 13th, 2024
- **Mounds Park Academy**
Center Code: 222180
Test Dates:
 - April 13th, 2024
- **Saint Agnes School**
Center Code: 227860
Test Dates:
 - April 13th, 2024
- **St Paul Academy and Summit School**
Center Code: 161220
Test Dates:
 - February 10th, 2024

Hello TRIO ETS Scholars! Do you want FREE, anytime, anywhere homework or classwork help? Check out tutor.com/stolafets! This is a great resource that's free for all TRIO ETS students.

To login:

Your username is the first half of your email address.

Password: trioets

Don't hesitate to email your TRIO ETS Academic Advisor with any questions!





St. Olaf College
1520 St. Olaf Avenue
Northfield, MN 55057-1098
(507) 786-6241 TOLL FREE: (800) 621-7601
<https://wp.stolaf.edu/ets>

Address Service Requested

ETS Staff
Juan Telles, Director
Fay Dacey, Administrative Assistant
Junior Avalos, Academic Advisor
Kali Hickman, Academic Advisor
Anna Schmidt, Academic Advisor
Azlan Thao, Academic Advisor

Layout/Design
Fay Dacey, Administrative Assistant

Educational Talent Search (ETS) is a TRIO program funded by the U.S. Department of Education and sponsored by St. Olaf College. The ETS program annually assists 700 middle and high school students as they explore their academic and vocational options and set goals for the future. ETS Academic Advisors, in cooperation with school counselors and teachers, provide college preparatory services through workshops, classroom activities, and group and individual counseling sessions. St. Olaf College Educational Talent Search works at the following five schools: St. Paul Community of Peace Academy, St. Paul Humboldt High School, Minneapolis Northeast Middle School, and Minneapolis Edison Senior High School.