THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

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HOW TO PREPARE OVER THE SUMMER

• START YOUR COLLEGE ESSAY
  • Attend Writing Camps

• CREATE A COMMON APPLICATION ACCOUNT
  • Application opens on Aug. 1st

• ASK FOR LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION BEFORE YOU LEAVE FOR SUMMER BREAK

• BEGIN TOURING COLLEGES
  • Attend Open Houses
  • Summer Events
  • Narrow down your list

• START RESEARCHING DEADLINES
  • Each college will have their own deadlines for financial aid and admissions application
WAYS TO APPLY TO COLLEGE

• **Common Application**
  - Opens August 1\textsuperscript{st}
  - Accepted by over 900 schools
  - Fee waivers available

• **Coalition Application**
  - Opens August 1\textsuperscript{st}
  - Required by 150 colleges
  - Fee waivers available

• **College-Specific Application**
  - Found on college website
  - May waive application fee
DEADLINES

- Pay attention to both application and financial aid deadlines for each school
- Majority of deadlines are between December 1st and March 15th
- Decide YOUR method of keeping track of all college-related deadlines
  - Spreadsheet
  - Paper or online fillable calendar
  - Folders
  - Phone app
## WHEN TO APPLY

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Admission Type</th>
<th>Details</th>
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| Rolling Admission     | - First come, first served  
                      - Applications are reviewed as they are received, so applying later may mean you miss out (even if you are a qualified candidate) | Within specified time frame until a class is filled | Non-binding  |
| Regular Decision      | All applications are reviewed prior to a decision being made            | November-January                        | Non-binding  |
| Early Action (EA)     | Receive a decision well in advance of the institutions regular response date | October-December                       | Non-binding  |
| Early Decision        | - Cannot apply to more than one school ED  
                      - If admitted, student agrees to enroll and withdraw all other applications | October-December                       | Binding      |
ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF THE APPLICATION

What is your college requiring from you?

• High School Transcript
• College Essay
• Extra-Curricular Activities
• Letters of Rec
• SAT/ACT Scores

*Additional things to consider: Athletics, Auditions, portfolios, different major requirements…all will depend on your college!
STUDENTS TAKE THE LEAD

- Email or speak to college admissions representatives
- Fill out college applications and paperwork
- Develop strategies for staying organized
- Check email regularly
- Stay in communication with parents, school counseling office, college admissions, and financial aid offices

**Parents**: consider creating a “college free zone” – a time (like during car rides, dinner) when college admissions talk is off limits!

**Students**: answer your parents’ questions! They are excited for you!
HELPFUL TIPS

• Create one **professional** email address for all things college-related and check it often! (not your school email)

• Track your applications via online portals, if offered. It is up to YOU to make sure your applications are completed.

• Ask lots of questions, you are not alone in this process!

• Start early. Give yourself **PLENTY** of time to complete your applications
AFTER YOU APPLY

• File your FAFSA and CSS Profile (if required)
  o Check school deadlines

• Admission decisions will arrive, depending on how you applied (EA, ED, RD)

• Once accepted, and FAFSA/CSS are complete, you will receive financial aid offer

• National Decision Day is May 1st
  o Deposit must be submitted to secure spot at college/university
QUESTIONS?