

PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

STEPS TO TAKE AS A JUNIOR

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ACTION PLAN FOR JUNIORS

- 1. Make sure to sign up for standardized tests such as ACT and SAT. The earlier the better. Take as many as needed until you reach the scores that satisfy.
- 2. Start your college search:
 - A. Make lists of your abilities, preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.

ACTION PLAN FOR JUNIORS

- B. Jumpstart your college planning by reading about majors and careers.
- C. Use College Search to find colleges with the right characteristics

ACTION PLAN FOR JUNIORS

- D. Start thinking about financial aid. Refer to list of reliable websites for help.
- 3. Explore Colleges. Develop a list of 15-20 colleges that interest you.
- 4. Prepare for AP Exams

ACTION PLAN FOR JUNIORS

- 5. Plan ahead for the summer and Senior year
- 6. Enrich yourself and transcripts by volunteering, getting an interesting job or internship, or signing for special summer programs.
- 7. Start working on your personal statement or any other essay that may be required by colleges.

APPLICATION PROCESS

- 1. Pulling Your Application Together:
 - A. Narrow your list of colleges
 - B. Make a calendar and note:
 - Test dates, fees, and deadlines
 - College application due dates
 - Required financial aid applications and deadlines

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Recommendations, transcripts, and other necessary materials.
- Your high school's deadlines for application requests, such as your transcript
- Ask for recommendations EARLY. Give each teacher your extra-curricular activities sheet and evaluation forms

APPLICATION PROCESS

- Write application essays and ask teachers, parents, and friends to read first drafts.

EARLY ACTION V. EARLY DECISION?

- November 1: For early admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications in early November.
- Ask if the college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility.
- Talk to your counselor about CSS Profile/ Financial Aid Profile and complete your profile early

EARLY ACTION V. EARLY DECISION?

- ED applicants must attend the college they are admitted into.
- Early actions are non-binding. You do not have to commit until the normal reply date of May 1.

EARLY DECISION APPLICANTS

- Apply early to first-choice college
- Usually receive notification/decision in December
- Agree to attend the college if accepted and offered a financial aid package
- May only apply to one college for ED

EARLY DECISION APPLICANTS

- May apply to other colleges under regular admission
- Must withdraw all other applications when accepted by ED
- Must give a non-refundable deposit way before May 1

EARLY ACTION APPLICANTS

- Apply early
- Receive notification/decision by January or February
- Do not have to commit to an EA college
- May apply to other colleges under regular admission plans
- Must give the college a decision no later than the May 1 national response date

WHO SHOULD APPLY EARLY?

- Students who have researched colleges extensively and know what to do
- If you are sure that the college is your first choice
- If you meet or exceed the requirements
- If you have an academic record that has been consistently solid throughout H.S

BENEFITS OF APPLYING EARLY

- Reduces stress by finding out early
- Saves times and applications
- Gives students more time to look for housing
- If not accepted, gives you time to check other options

DRAWBACKS

- Pressure to decide
- Reduced financial aid opportunities
- Time crunch for other applications
- Senioritis

THE COMMON APPLICATION

- Over 400 colleges on the common app.
- Allows you to fill out one application for all of the colleges that you want to apply to and that are on the list.
- Let your counselor know how many colleges you plan to apply to through it.
- Still have to check each college specific requirements, such as essays, personal statement, etc...

COLLEGE APPLICATION CALENDAR

- This summer:
 - 1. Visit colleges
 - 2. Talk to an admissions representative
 - 3. Finalize your list of colleges
 - 4. Make sure to have your ACT & SAT scores sent to school

SEPTEMBER

- 1. See your counselor to discuss your applications.
- 2. Get started on your applications right away.
- 3. Review your transcript to make sure that all information is correct.
- 4. Start working on college essays and personal statement.

OCTOBER

- 1. Ask for recommendation letters.
- 2. Take SAT tests. Make sure to send scores to your school or colleges.

NOVEMBER

1. Submit early applications.
2. Finalize essays.
3. Check with teachers and counselor to make sure that letters were sent.
4. Take SAT tests.

DECEMBER

- 1. Wrap up all college applications.
- 2. Take SAT tests if you have not taken them yet.
- 3. Submit all college applications before Winter Break.
- 4. Prepare your FAFSA application to be submitted on January 1.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

- 1. Early decisions come in.
- 2. Mid-Year Reports are due.
- 3. Contact colleges and confirm that all necessary materials have been received.
- 4. Don't get senioritis!

MARCH & APRIL

- 1. Some college decisions arrive in March.
- 2. Most college decisions and financial aid arrive. Read them carefully for some of it may require action on your part.
- 3. Make a final decision and mail the enrollment form and deposit check to the school you select before May 1.

MAY & JUNE

- 1. Make sure AP scores are sent to college.
- 2. In June, have your counselor send your final transcript to your college choice.
- 3. Finalize your housing plans.
- 4. Make sure to sign up for orientation and take appropriate placement exams

IMPORTANCE OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Colleges care about your contributions in school and outside.
- They want to know about the kind of person you are outside the classroom, such as your long-term commitments, role in the community, how you manage your time, etc...

IMPORTANCE OF EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

- Colleges care about consistency, commitment, and work ethics.
- They don't look for long lists of activities.
- Make sure to have community service and a balance set of extracurricular activities.
- Do Not forget about your hours for graduation.