College Application Senior Timeline

*A helpful guide to submitting your most competitive college application! *

**June & July**

* Update your resume and create your brag sheet
* Begin your personal statement *(remember, it will take you at least 5 drafts to get it just right!)*
* Narrow down the list of schools you want to apply to – *you ideally want at least 2 stretch schools, 2 target schools, and 2 safety schools*
	+ Decide what type of admission you will apply to for each
	+ Create a list of required application materials and application deadlines for each school on your list – *deadlines will be as early as October 1st*
	+ If you are interested in living on campus – include housing application deadlines
* Determine whether the major you are interested in is a *limited-access major*
	+ Admission into a college doesn’t always guarantee you admission to the major you want
	+ A *limited-access major* has higher admission standards than the college itself
	+ This means you must get accepted to the college AND the program to earn certain degrees *(common for nursing, business, and engineering programs)*
* Study for the SAT/ACT if you intend to take it again

**August & September**

* Be sure you’ve maintained a rigorous class schedule, even as a senior
	+ Keep those grades up. Schools will revoke your admission if your grades drop substantially your senior year or if you start suddenly taking easier classes.
* Be sure you’re involved in your community, on campus, and/or working part-time – but do NOT overcommit yourself. *Remember, quality over quantity.*
* Ask 2 people for a *strong* letter of recommendation
	+ If you are asking a teacher, be sure they have known you for at least a year and have taught you in an advanced class so that they can speak to your academic strengths personally
	+ Provide letter writers with an updated brag sheet
* Revise and finalize personal statement/admission essays
* Work on college applications – you’ll want them all submitted no later than next month – *be sure to send all SAT/ACT sores*
* Request fee waivers from Mrs. Crotty when you need them
* Be sure you have started the College Board Opportunity Scholarships process

**October**

* Apply for FAFSA ID (student AND parent) and apply for FAFSA
* Be sure your FAFSA is completed – send your confirmation page to Mrs. Crotty
* Be sure you have submitted all of your college applications by this month
* Follow up with your applications for each school and be sure they have all required materials (including all SAT/ACT scores)- *some schools will require additional materials, like quarter 1 grades, before they make an official admission decision*
* Start applying to *at least* 2 scholarship per month *(Mrs. Crotty sends scholarship opportunities out through Remind as she gets them)*
* Start sending ALL admission offers, scholarship offers, job offers, and FAFSA completion pages to Mrs. Crotty

**November**

* Research documentation needed to be eligible for financial aid from all schools you applied to
* Follow up with your applications for each school and be sure they have all required materials
* Apply to at least 2 scholarships
* Request your transcripts from Mrs. Crotty and apply for the Educational Foundation Scholarship – *this is a scholarship application for Osceola County residents that automatically applies you for hundreds of local scholarships*
* Keep sending ALL admission offers, scholarship offers, job offers, and FAFSA completion pages to Mrs. Crotty

**December**

* Apply to at least 2 scholarships
* Confirm that schools you have not heard back from have all required application materials
* Complete the FFAA – this makes you eligible for Bright Futures and other grants and scholarships from the state
* Keep sending ALL admission offers, scholarship offers, job offers, and FAFSA completion pages to Mrs. Crotty

**January**

* Apply to at least 2 scholarships
* Keep grades up! *You don’t want schools to have a reason to revoke your admission.*
* Keep sending ALL admission offers, scholarship offers, job offers, and FAFSA completion pages to Mrs. Crotty
* Apply for housing as soon as you decide on which school you intend to enroll in

**February**

* Apply to at least 2 scholarships
* Take a final tour of schools you were admitted to if you are still undecided
* Contact financial aid offices as you get acceptances to explore your financial aid package AND to make sure your school has everything they need on file to offer you a financial aid package
* Keep sending ALL admission offers, scholarship offers, job offers, and FAFSA completion pages to Mrs. Crotty
* Study for and plan to take any AP exams

**March & April**

* Apply for housing if you haven’t already. *If you wait too long, housing will be full!*
* Pay your admission fee/enrollment deposit for the school you choose
* Notify schools that you do not plan to attend
* Sign up for freshman orientation
	+ Make sure you complete any placements tests required by your school before attending orientation *(science and math are the most common)*
* Look into scholarships that your college offers
* Keep sending ALL admission offers, scholarship offers, job offers, and FAFSA completion pages to Mrs. Crotty
* Complete your Senior Survey

**May**

* Keep sending ALL admission offers, scholarship offers, job offers, and FAFSA completion pages to Mrs. Crotty
* Apply to at least 2 scholarships
* Ensure you have the correct college listed on the Senior Survey for final high school transcript
* Write thank you notes to teachers, counselors, or family members who were particularly helpful to you in your application journey
* Check with health services at your college to see if there are any health requirements needed to attend school *(vaccinations, a physical, etc.)*
* If you were a dual enrollment student, be sure you’ve sent a transcript from the college you took DE courses at
* ENJOY GRADUATION AND CELEBRATE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENT!