

The Senior Checklist

A step-by-step 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 match 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 scores from your College Board and ACT accounts*
 - Step-by-Step Application Guide: <https://www.osceolaschools.net/cms/lib/FL50000609/Centricity/Domain/5179/Applying%20to%204-Year%20Colleges%20WEBSITE%20EDITION.pdf>
 - More application resources: <https://www.osceolaschools.net/Page/9027>
- Request fee waivers from Mrs. Malfara when you need them – ACT, SAT, college application
- Be sure you have started the College Board Big Future Scholarships process - https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/?ef_id=9750c35aed4917b82446a071f9da0fa7:G:s&s_kwcid=AL1433010!73667542521170!73667496061108&msclkid=9750c35aed4917b82446a071f9da0fa7
 - Additional Financial Aid information: <https://www.osceolaschools.net/Page/8204>

October

- Apply for FAFSA ID (student AND parent) and apply for FAFSA
- Be sure your FAFSA is completed – send your confirmation page to Mrs. Malfara
- Be sure you have submitted all of your college applications by the end of this month
 - **You want your FAFSA completed and college applications submitted before the financial aid priority deadline at the colleges you are applying for. This is always much earlier than the actual application deadline.**
- 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 or midterm grades, before they make an official admission decision*
- Start applying to *at least 2* scholarship per month (*Mrs. Malfara sends scholarship opportunities out through Remind as she gets them. There is also a scholarship newsletter at <https://www.osceolaschools.net/Page/9030>*)
- Start sending ALL admission offers, scholarship offers, job offers, and FAFSA completion pages to Mrs. Malfara

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. Malfara 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. Malfara

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. Malfara

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. Malfara
- 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. Malfara
- 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. Malfara
- Complete your Senior Survey

May

- Keep sending ALL admission offers, scholarship offers, job offers, and FAFSA completion pages to Mrs. Malfara
- Apply to at least 2 scholarships
- Request to have final high school transcript sent to your college
- 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 classes at
- ENJOY GRADUATION AND CELEBRATE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENT!