

# 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 1<sup>st</sup>*
  - 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*
- 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!