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Pay it Forward: Timeline



Late-Junior Year

Teacher recommendations

- Create a list of 2-3 teachers that you're close with
- What does this mean?
 - You did well in their classes
 - They've known you *longer and personally*
 - Their recommendation relates to what you apply for
- Ask your teachers before the end of junior year IN PERSON and follow up directly after through email!
 - Follow up in senior year IN PERSON and by email with your resume!
 - Teachers may need you to fill out forms or submit other resources
- Keep following up until the due date, IN PERSON!
- Thank your teacher for their time and recommendation (optionally with a gift) after essays/for the holidays

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Summer

What should you do during your summer?

- ❖ Brain dump- START writing drafts of your essay!!
 - Structure
 - Story
 - Context of story
 - Conclusion
- ❖ Common app
 - Make common app account
 - Finalize your activity hours
- ❖ College research homework
 - Make a spreadsheet of colleges your interested in (or add interested colleges into CollegeVine)
 - Add them to your common app
 - Make a timeline with deadlines of each college (EA/RD/ED/REA)
- ❖ Update resume
 - Important for teacher recommendations
 - Helps finalize hours in your common app
- ❖ Start finalizing all your standardized tests

Visits

- College visits are a valuable experience that allow for you to get a feel for where you want to go for the next four years
- Focus on choosing a college that not only matches what you want for your education but also the kind of area you would like to live in or see yourself settling down
- Positives of college visits:
 - Get a feel for the campus - where places are located, etc.
 - Understand the area that surrounds the campus and what off-campus activities are available to you
 - Ask your tour guide questions about the campus and university
 - Understand the kind of climate you will be living in

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Early Fall Semester

Essays – Main common app

- ❖ Make sure to brainstorm lots of ideas
 - You should make multiple drafts
 - Take your time
 - Try to find something that interests you and shows who you are (if you fake being passionate it's very obvious and colleges will catch on)
- ❖ Make your essay personal to you
 - Pick an interest that you think will be strong enough and write about it
 - Find something interesting and eye catching, don't just talk about your extracurriculars or leadership. No regurgitating your resume!
 - Remember you are writing a story
 - Don't make your essay about Academic related stuff (if you want to mention academic stuff, make it brief and make it related to your idea/interest)
 - Don't try to talk about your entire life in 650 words! Keep the focus narrow and delve deeper into one subject, rather than superficially into many.

Essays cont.

- ❖ Keep formatting in mind
 - The common app essay has a maximum of 650 words. You should aim to use at least 500. Convey your point concisely and don't add in unnecessary fluff
 - Try to find what's the true heart of your essay, these admissions people are reading hundreds of essays they won't bother trying to figure out your true meaning so make sure you are easy to understand
 - HAVE GOOD GRAMMAR (if you don't think your grammar is good enough, enhance it before submitting a final draft to colleges)
 - Make sure all your points flow well, your essay should not be chunky
- ❖ Don't be afraid to seek out feedback
 - Let 2-3 people read over your draft and offer their advice. (Especially English Teachers!) Be cautious of having too many editors- you may start to lose your person voice in your essay.
 - You don't have to take all suggestions
 - Having different people read your essay can provide new viewpoints that you didn't think of and help improve your essay

Essays- Supplementals

- Make sure to start EARLY AS POSSIBLE (ideally the summer)
 - Look at last year's prompts (so 23-24 prompts for y'all) and start brainstorming through the summer.
 - Some of them stay the same
- Actual supplemental prompts release around August 1st,
 - Start rough drafting
 - Make a list of experiences that you would like to write about
 - Leadership, service, community, Hardships/adversity, Identity (race, ethnic, LGBTQ+)
 - What makes you unique?
 - Quirks good! Colleges love that.
 - Natural please!

Decision Plans

Early Action	Regular Decision	Rolling Admission	Early Decision
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-Binding• Due around Nov. 1st, decision in late Jan.• Usually offered by public schools• Usually offers additional scholarship consideration	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-Binding• Due around Jan. 1st, decision in Mar. or Apr• DO NOT RUSH TO APPLY EA IF YOUR APPLICATION ISN'T COMPLETE.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Non-Binding• School continues to accept students until class is full• Usually offered by smaller, less competitive schools• Good way to secure an early (or late) acceptance	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Binding Agreement• Due around Nov. 1st, decision in Dec.• Usually offered by private schools• Generally higher acceptance rate

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Late Fall
semester

What should you do?

- Keep powering through! (senioritis can be tough, we've been there)
- Keep your grades in your semester one classes up! Study for finals if you have to take them (we love senior exemptions though)
 - Especially necessary for RD colleges.
 - Colleges love to see growth
- Stay on top of your deadlines for EA
 - October 15, Nov 1st, and Nov 15th are usually the big dates for EA apps.
 - Can vary depending on the college so make sure to look at that
- Start planning for and writing your RD essays.
 - WINTER BREAK: Set this deadline to finish your RD essays by then!
 - No rushing during the first week back!
 - The first week of Jan is when most RD applications are due
- Keep applying to scholarships, start early!
- Stay on top of your ECs!

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Winter

Interviews

- There are several types of interviews
- Make sure to do your due diligence to make sure what format your interviews are and verify who your interviewer interviews
- Types of interview:
 - Traditional undergrad
 - Honors college/special program
 - Scholarship interviews
 - Multiple Mini Interview
 - Group interviews
- Elaborate more on your essays
- Commonly asked questions
 - Why this school?
 - Why this profession?
 - An obstacle you overcame?
 - Strength vs weakness?
 - An ethical scenario

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Spring

Decisions/What to do?

- ❖ Choosing a college
 - You should have heard back from all your colleges by this point
 - Now to decide where to go
 - The Finding your Path people have a great slide on In-state vs Out-of-State and you can ask someone for the link to that
 - You have until May 1st to decide your college of choice
- ❖ Your college of choice will still have stuff you need to do/submit after you get accepted (so don't leave your final decision to the last minute!)
- ❖ During the Spring semester you still need to keep up with grades; since colleges review it at the end of your school year.

If you have any
questions, we'll go
over them on Friday!

Our
Presentation



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