

# THE COLLEGE PROCESS

By a 2023 Senior

## GLOSSARY

**1**

### DEADLINES

- When should I start touring?
- When should I start my applications?

### COLLEGE TOURS

- Tips
- What should I ask?

**2**

**3**

### COLLEGE APPLICATION

- Tips
- How to save money

### THE MONEY

- Federal Loans vs. Private loans
- Loans vs. Scholarships

**4**

**5**

### MY COLLEGE EXPERIENCE

- Specific Information on the colleges I toured/applies to

I wanted to share all of the information and tips I learned during my college experience. I hope this data makes the college process easier and less overwhelming for future high school seniors.

Sending the best of luck to all of you! You will end up where you are meant to be. Go with your gut and remember that you can be successful at many colleges. Your college experience and success will be what you make of it!



# Deadlines



Regular Decision- typical application

**Due date:** January

**Decision release:** March

Early Action- normal application, only offered by some

**Due date:** November

**Decision release:** December

Early Decision- binding agreement, shows college that it's your top choice, can increase chance of getting in, 2 rounds

**Due date:** 1- November, 2- January

**Decision release:** 1- December, 2-March



# COLLEGE TOURS

Why is touring in March (after acceptances) a bad idea?

- Save money! (Didn't like the school? Don't apply!)
- March is crazy with scholarships!

## 1 GO!

Tours are very helpful and informative! Go on as many as possible. I suggest touring most of the colleges on your list before you go to apply.



## 2 ASK QUESTIONS

Examples:

Why did you (tour guide) choose this college?  
How is the food?

Can you choose your roommate?

How would you rate housing? rate school spirit?

Is there Greek life? Do they have houses?

How understanding and supportive are your professors?



## LOOK!

3 Look at the students who attend the college. There will be few students on campus during the summer.

- Is the student body diverse?
- Do they look like they could be your future friends?
- Are they social? Do they seem happy?



## 4 TAKE NOTES

No matter how good your memory is, you will forget important details and will mix up information. I suggest taking notes on your phone or in a notebook.

# The Common Application

The Common App is used by most colleges and is quite easy to navigate.

**Use your personal email**

**List activities in order of importance**

**Work on it in small sections**

**Check it over for grammar/spelling errors!**

**If not applying Early A/D, wait and colleges may give you a application fee waiver code**

**Choose an essay topic that captures you, not discussed in application already**

**Always apply for scholarships and write the additional essay!**

**Counselors viewing your application love humorous essays (if done well)**

# THE MONEY



The difference between federal and private loans & grants and scholarships

## FEDERAL

From the U.S. Department of Education

Comes with your decision letter and financial aid offer

Different amount for every school

low interest rates

## PRIVATE

From bank or credit union

just ask your bank

not based on financial need

high interest rates

## Grants

need based

given by college

almost always renewable annually

## Scholarships

merit based (grades, testing scores, community service etc.)

given by high school, college, local and national organizations

some renewable annually, others just for freshmen year



# My College Experience

The following is a list of all of the colleges I toured. Use this [link](#) to access all of the information I gathered from these college tours.

1

American University

2

Bentley University

3

Boston College

4

Boston University

5

Brandeis University

6

George Washington University

7

Marist College

8

Northeastern University

9

Tufts University

10

University of Rochester

11

Williams College