

EA College Counseling: 12TH GRADE GUIDE

12



KEYS to an awesome senior year

TAKE RISKS

Take advantage of opportunities at EA. Say "yes," take academic risks, give your best effort in classes, make new friends, and be open-minded.

BUILD RELATIONSHIPS

Meet often with your college counselor. Build on your relationship, and use all of the resources available to you at EA.

MANAGE TASKS

Don't procrastinate! Know your deadlines and set a doable schedule. Do application work early and move on with your senior year.

SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR

- Rest, refresh, and re-energize.
- Do something meaningful: volunteer, attend camp, play sports, immerse yourself in your art, write, find employment, or take an academic class.
- If appropriate, study and register for the ACT/SAT exam.
- Continue having conversations about financing college.
- Craft and edit your personal statement.
- Research colleges. Peruse websites, social media, and attend regional admission presentations.
- Visit colleges of interest. Schedule a campus tour, information session, and interview (where available). After your visit, consider storing your visit notes in Maia. Contact people you met with questions.
- Register for a Common Application account. Become familiar with each section, and complete what you can before the school year begins.
- If you haven't already, create an SSAR account. Complete requirements.

ADVICE from an ALUM:

"Be productive in late July/August getting work done on the Common App so when school starts you only have to do essays."

THROUGHOUT SENIOR YEAR:

- Maintain your grades (yes, all year).
- Seek leadership opportunities. Participate in class, act as a mentor to younger students, co-captain a team, start a club, or volunteer.
- Understand the entry requirements of all the schools to which you are applying.
- Decide if you want to apply Early Decision.
- Meet with your college counselor regularly and read all emails sent by counselors.
- Communicate with and confirm teacher recommendations.
- Complete appropriate standardized tests (SAT or ACT).
- Apply for financial aid and research scholarships when applicable.
- Meet all your application and financial aid deadlines and regularly check your application portals.
- Log into MaiaLearning regularly - update your information, finalize your college application list, check announcements, and view dates when universities visit EA.

ADVICE from an ALUM:

"Don't be afraid of college applications. It's a chance to explore your interests and reflect on everything you've done in your high school career."

College Admission

DATES TO REMEMBER

AUG. 1: Common App goes live

SEPT.-OCT.: College representatives visit EA

MID SEPT.: University and College Admission Service (UCAS) opens for UK school applications

OCT. 1: CSS Profile & FAFSA open
(Note: FAFSA delays have occurred)

OCT. 15, NOV. 1, NOV. 15: Early Action/Early Decision 1 deadlines

NOV. 30: The University of California (UC) application deadline

JAN. 1-15: Early Decision 2/Regular Decision deadlines

JAN. 15: UCAS preferred admission deadline

APR. 1: Universities and colleges release RD decisions (for students who met winter RD deadline)

MAY 1: National College Decision Day: day students commit to a college and submit deposits

YEAR AT A GLANCE

FALL

Seek feedback on your college list, application, essays, and resume from your counselor to boost confidence.

Attend college rep visits and programming to stay informed and empowered.

Use MaiaLearning for college search, applications, and programming.

Allow ample time to finalize your college list, essay, and personal statement.

Complete your Common App and add colleges to your account.

Check your transcript for errors or changes.

Take the ACT/SAT if needed.

Work with your counselor to decide the best application round for each school (*Early Action, Early Decision, Priority, Rolling, Regular*).

Understand college costs at institutions of interest using Net Price Calculators or MyIntuition.

Meet with Ms. Avicoli for college financing guidance.

If applying for need-based aid, start financial aid applications (FAFSA, CSS Profile) and submit required documents.

Research and apply for private scholarships before deadlines.

Begin submitting applications with early- and mid-fall deadlines. Submit all EA, ED, Priority, and Rolling applications by Nov. 1.

Prepare for interviews at schools offering them.

TIP: November is crucial for grades—colleges see mid-year and final reports. Poor grades can impact admission decisions.

ADVICE from an ALUM:

"Trust in your counselors and do the right things. If you do those two things, it will all be just fine and you will end up where you need to."

WINTER

Submit all applications with December or early January deadlines before Winter Break.

Share early admission results with your counselor for guidance on next steps.

Compare financial aid awards to evaluate school costs.

Apply before financial aid and scholarship deadlines to maximize options.

Reach out to financial aid offices with questions or to request deadline extensions if needed.

Complete all required financial aid paperwork.

Confirm application submissions—colleges typically send confirmation emails.

Regularly check application portals to verify completeness; notify your counselor if anything is missing.

Review mid-year transcripts in January; your counselor will send them to schools.

Send thank-you notes to everyone who supported your application process.

Stay focused on grades; admissions offers are conditional on consistent performance.

SPRING

Regularly check application portals.

Seek guidance and ask questions from your college counselor.

Be ready to pay your first tuition bill, usually due before enrollment.

Apply to schools with late deadlines or rolling admissions if needed.

Expect Early Decision 2 and Regular Decision outcomes by April 1; notify your counselor of all decisions.

Attend spring open houses for admitted students to ask questions and connect with future classmates.

If offered a place on the waitlist, consult your counselor on the next steps.

Make your final decision by evaluating admissions offers, finances, and living costs; consult family and mentors for input.

Select and confirm a financial aid package by the deadline; consult Ms. Avicoli for advice.

Submit your deposit to your chosen school by May 1 (National College Decision Day). Only deposit at one school.

Notify other schools of your decision to free up spots for waitlisted students.

Complete the Graduation Survey in MaiaLearning.

ADVICE from an ALUM:

"Do not compare your college or recruiting process to other peers in your grade, and trust that you will find the right school for you no matter how long the process is."

MAY-JUNE



Most colleges require a deposit by May 1. Check your admission letter for details to commit financially.

After graduation, your final high school transcript will be sent to your college. Make sure you tell your counselor where you're enrolling.

If you took AP Exams, scores of 3, 4, or 5 may earn college credit. Check your college's policy and send scores through College Board.

Thank those who supported your college applications with personalized notes—they'll appreciate it.

Prepare for fall: research housing options, whether on-campus or off-campus, and plan accordingly.

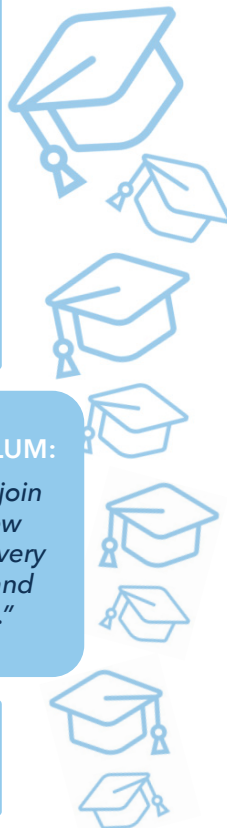
If you have a dorm assignment, reach out to your future roommate to connect.

Register for classes early and meet with an advisor if required.

Watch for orientation programs and meet all deadlines.

ADVICE *from an ALUM:*

"Don't be afraid to join new clubs or a new sports team. Give every college a chance and trust the process."



Congratulations! You're going to college.

KEEP IN MIND... *wisdom from recent graduates*

Start Early: Completing the Common App, essays, and supplemental materials in summer before senior year will alleviate stress.

Time Management and Organization: Manage your time wisely. Break down the process into smaller, manageable tasks. Set personal deadlines, stay on top of assignments, and stay organized.

Get Help from Counselors: Meet regularly with college counselors and seek guidance on essays, applications, and financial aid. Counselors can help keep the process on track and provide support, especially when it comes to navigating the complexities of college applications.

Don't Procrastinate: Everything is easier when work is done early. Prevent the stress of last-minute efforts.

Be Open-Minded: Visiting different colleges, considering lesser-known options, and not focusing solely on "prestige" can help broaden one's perspective and potentially lead to discovering the right fit.

Essay Writing: Write your essays, particularly the personal statement and supplementals, over the summer which will allow more time for revisions and reduce the burden during senior year.

Balance and Self-Care: While working hard is important, take care of your mental health, avoid stressing too much, and focus on enjoying the senior year experience. Do not define yourself by college admissions outcomes and trust that things will work out.

Extracurricular Involvement: Stay involved in extracurricular activities that genuinely interest you. These will enrich your college application. Focus on quality rather than quantity when it comes to activities.

Keep Perspective: The college process may be stressful but it is ultimately about finding the right fit. Keeping a positive attitude, not comparing oneself to others, and remaining confident in one's choices are key elements of handling the application journey well.

Be True to Yourself: Always represent your best and authentic self. Listen to others but hold true to who you are and what you want to achieve.

REACH OUT.

The EA College Counseling team is always here to help. If you have any questions along the way, please do not hesitate to reach out to your EA college counselor!