



Best & Worst Practices for Seniors in the College Process

Lakeside School
College Counseling Office

BEST

Ensuring you'd be happy at any school on your list, especially your Foundations

Communicating with your parent(s)/guardian(s) throughout the process

Staying in your own lane by focusing on your own process

Following through on all emails from the counseling office and colleges (check your junk folder)

Tracking each school's application components (e.g. demonstrated interest, scholarship deadlines, interviews, official score reports)

Meeting your own deadlines for writing essay drafts and submitting applications

Earning strong senior year grades - colleges consider them!

Using Thanksgiving break to make progress on applications so most essays are written before winter break

WORST

Adding more Unlikelies to your list in November "just in case" or because someone told you to apply

Allowing "college" to dominate all your social interactions and conversations

Being overly concerned with others' processes (e.g. comparing yourself, judging others' choices)

Ignoring important emails from the counseling office or colleges, which may result in an incomplete application

Submitting your application fewer than 48 hours before the college's deadline, resulting in mistakes from rushing

Having too many "cooks in the kitchen" (especially when editing essays)

Stressing about your GPA, which is not shared with colleges beyond UW!

Applying to an early school in November, and then not working on your other applications until the deadline