College Advising - 12th Grade To Do List

Execute · Decide · Transition

Fall: Visualization and application

August-September

- Complete College Advising survey
- Meet with your college advisor in the first weeks of school
- Confirm application requirements and deadlines for every college you are seriously considering
- Review spreadsheets in College Rep Visits and Programs Folder and add sessions you want to attend to your calendar
- Work to complete the Common Application/other application platforms using the College Advising Resource Folder, your Brag Bank and drafted activities list
- Finalize personal statement
- Map out and complete supplemental essays
- Prepare to retest this Fall as needed
- Discuss financial need with family and begin researching scholarships
- Finalize college list
- Attend 12th Grade College-Focused Webinar

October-November

- Submit Early Decision/Early Action applications by appropriate deadlines
- Submit rolling-admission applications
- Send test scores if required/appropriate
- Continue work on remaining applications
- Submit FAFSA when available and needed (open October 1st)
- Submit CSS Profile (open October 1st) and institutional financial aid forms when required
- Attend Guide to College Financing Webinar
- Apply for scholarships
- Check applicant portals regularly and respond promptly to requests from colleges for additional info
- Keep copies of submitted applications and confirmations

Winter: Completion and evaluation

December-February

- Submit remaining Regular Decision applications
- Finish first trimester strong for colleges to receive a great midyear report
- Complete scholarship applications
- Monitor financial aid documents and portals
- Review admission decisions as they arrive
- Compare financial aid offers
- Visit or revisit top colleges if possible; consider also virtual sessions
- Discuss options with family and college advisor
- Avoid making decisions based solely on rankings or prestige

Spring: Decision and transition

March-May

- Compare final admission and financial aid offers
- Review total cost of attendance with family
- Strategize about wait-list process (if applicable)
- Make final college decision and submit one enrollment deposit by May 1 (or applicable deadline)
- Decline other offers appropriately
- Complete follow-up enrollment tasks, i.e. housing applications, placement exams, orientation forms
- Apply for campus scholarships or employment if applicable
- Thank teachers, advisor, college advisor, mentors and recommenders
- Celebrate and begin preparing for this exciting transition!

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