

Senior College Application Checklist

August/September

- ✓ Start applications. It is never too soon to start loading the applications with the background information (address, parents, etc.). Applications are available:
 - UF: First week of September
 - FSU, UCF, USF, FAMU: Early August
 - FGCU: June 1 for summer, Sept 1 for fall
 - FAU, UNF, FIU, FL Poly: Early July
 - Common App: opens Aug. 1
- ✓ Make sure you have your list of colleges. Dream schools, safety schools and several in between. This is also the time to decide if you are applying early decision, early action or single choice early action. Make sure you know the pros and cons of applying early. There are many ways to decide which schools to apply to. Don't panic about determining a major...you have plenty of time to decide and many schools do not even consider it for the admission process.
- ✓ Check college admissions websites for applications, deadlines, financial aid, separate scholarship applications, and housing information. Make a checklist with your specific schools so you don't miss any critical dates. Checklist should include: test scores sent, application sent, financial aid forms or separate applications sent, recommendations sent, transcripts sent, fee paid.
- ✓ Sign up for any last minute SAT's or ACT's or subject tests. Sign up on www.collegeboard.com or www.act.org
- ✓ If you are finished testing, make sure your scores are sent to the colleges. Colleges need applications, scores and transcripts (or SSAR) to make decisions.
- ✓ Make sure all communication with a college comes from you...never a parent.
- ✓ Make sure your senior year schedule shows rigor.
- ✓ Address the "blips" on your application. If there was a poor grade or two, and a reason for this, colleges need to know. They see blips all the time, but they need to understand what happened.
- ✓ Don't make changes to your schedule once your applications have gone out....it may be tempting to send some Florida applications out this month to get a jump on things but DO NOT hit the send button until you are set on your senior year schedule. They will be looking heavily at that and once the applications go out, and if you make a change, you will need to notify the admissions office...not a fun phone call!

- ✓ Finalize your resume. The applications will be much easier if you have everything in front of you.
- ✓ Keep a running list of any passwords or user ids you set up for applications, scholarships or websites.
- ✓ If this has not been done, now is the time to change your email address if you have a ridiculous email address. This is not the time for honeybabe or kittycatluv.
- ✓ Ask teachers for letter of recommendation, if a college you are applying to wants them. Give teachers/counselors plenty of notice!!! Make sure you ask a teacher of a core subject from junior or senior year. Don't ask a teacher where you sat in the back of the room and quietly got your A. Ask someone who will write about your work ethic, integrity or character. Helpful hint: once you have a great letter of recommendation make copies of it. You will need them for scholarships and programs you might want to participate in at college.
- ✓ Make sure applications have been sent out to Florida schools on rolling admission.
- ✓ Transcripts. Make sure you understand the various ways the colleges need them. You will need to ask your School Counselor to upload it into the Common App (if applicable).
- ✓ Finalize college essay. The essays and letters of recommendation are an important part of the application and your only opportunity to show how you are different than everyone else. Make sure you love every word, it is authentic and your voice, and it addresses the prompt! (make sure you read my writing the perfect college essay information so you don't miss the mark...this is critical!)

October

- ✓ Bright futures starts October 1st. Go to www.floridastudentfinancial.org and fill it out.
- ✓ FAFSA opens October 1st. Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov and fill it out.
- ✓ Senior year grades matter! If you are in jeopardy of getting a D or F, the colleges must be notified.
- ✓ Attend college fairs, school visits, and college tours. This is an invaluable time to make a personal connection with the person reading your application. I realize you will not want to leave your AP classes to come to my office for school visits but I promise you it matters to them that you were there.
- ✓ Register on cappex.com and fastweb.com...there are real scholarship websites and money left on the table every year because students don't utilize the different options.
- ✓ Set up any interviews, if applicable. If the colleges are willing to provide them, you should take advantage of that.

November

- ✓ Keep checking websites to make sure everything is in. Colleges won't text or tweet you and often things will go to your spam. Check every night.
- ✓ Utilize the net price calculator on every college website. That will help you figure out if that college is a viable option for you financially.
- ✓ Make sure you don't miss the November 1st deadline for early decision or early action.
- ✓ CSS profile...if that is not in by the deadline (depends on the school), the school does not need to tell you what your EFC (expected family contribution) will be at the time of acceptance. Some schools require it if apply early but it is usually hard to find on the website. Find it, fill it out, and send it in.

December

- ✓ Early Decisions are sent out mid-December.
- ✓ SSAR (Student Self-Reported Academic Report) due for UF Dec. 1st. UF and FSU share one SSAR.
- ✓ FAFSA is due for most schools at the beginning of this month (please confirm with the individual schools).

January

- ✓ Regular decision applications are due usually by January 1st.
- ✓ Now that applications are out, it is time to start looking for obscure scholarships you never thought would happen.
- ✓ First decision for FSU is announced the 3rd week of January.

February

- ✓ If you are wait listed or deferred, the colleges will want to be updated. Make sure you are continuing to stay strong in your clubs and activities and of course, your grades are staying up. No senioritis! It will come back to hurt you.
- ✓ You can communicate new information with the college but you never send an email just saying you are still interested.
- ✓ UF decision day is the second week of February.

March

- ✓ Second decision for FSU comes out March 29.

April

- ✓ Regular decisions are revealed this month.

May

- ✓ May 1st is decision day. Must have decided where you are attending by then. Make sure you inform the schools you will not be attending, as well.
- ✓ Fill out final transcript so we know where to send them.
- ✓ Senior Survey must be completed.
- ✓ Try and do as well on your AP exams as possible.

✓

Summer

- ✓ If applicable....Make sure you final transcripts from Broward College, and College Board AP Score Report are sent to the university you will be attending.