

College Application Tips

By Hayeon Kim

The season for college applications may be over, but it's only beginning for juniors. Given this information, *The Forum* has compiled a basic guide for students who may need help with the process.

Before the application process even begins, it's important to decide what colleges to attend. Research these well in advance and compile a list. Keep in mind that it's important to have at least one alternate school.

Once a list of colleges has been decided upon, look into each college's admissions page. It should state whether they have their own platform for applications or if they use a third party such as The Common App or Coalition for College. It's always a good idea to start on the applications early, so it would be best to work on making an account and filling out general information. While it doesn't take too long, the process is a bit tedious. This is also around the time that it might be best to check in with teachers and ask them if they'd be willing to write a letter of recommendation. Do not wait until the last minute.



T H E C O A L I T I O N



(courtesy of google images)

Essays for The Common App and Coalition for College will update in August, so hold off on writing them until then. Once they do, make sure to keep a schedule on improving them and find people who are willing to review and edit them.

Most importantly, keep the deadlines in mind. All the work put into an application will not matter if it's past the due date. These deadlines vary from college to college but are generally from early autumn or late spring.

Note: Some colleges have made testing optional next year because of COVID-19

General Advice from Seniors:

"Always send scores and transcripts ahead of time. They might take longer than you expect them to. 2-3 weeks ahead of the document deadline is great. Also, prestige doesn't matter as much as fit does, so pick schools that are best for you - not for their name recognition. Make sure you apply to some safety schools too, AND make sure that you would actually want to go to those schools - otherwise, you're wasting money. If you know your major, apply to places that are strong in that field. If you don't know your major, state universities are great because they have lots of major options. If you're able to, start filling out your common/coalition application information in August, because that's when they're ready for the new school year and you won't have schoolwork to do yet. Lastly, remember college admissions are really just a game. There's a lot of times where it'll feel like it's not fair that someone else got in and you didn't. That's just the nature of the application process. Put in your best effort and hope for the best, but don't expect it to go exactly how you thought it would." - Olivia Wang

"Start early" - Zak Cole

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