

TIMELINE FOR SENIORS APPLYING TO COLLEGES:

NOTE: *Deadlines for Applying for Admission and Applying for Scholarships through your schools vary.* Some are as early as October and some are as late as January. Doing your research and knowing your deadlines is a very, very important first step once you know which schools you want to apply to!

To apply for almost all Scholarships that schools offer, you need to apply for Admission **by the scholarship deadline.** (You cannot apply for a scholarship without applying for admission.) The admission deadline for a school might be December 1st. However, if there is a scholarship that you are applying for and it has a November 1st deadline...you must have your admission application completed by November 1st too.

Below is a general month-by-month timeline of the college admissions process:

August & September

- 1) **Continue to ask yourself...** "What am I looking for in a school? (Size, location, specific program offered, cost, study abroad opportunities, being a school that would set you up for long-term goals such as graduate school, med school, dentistry, etc.).
- 2) Continue to make **College Visits** as needed and do research about schools you might be interested in.
- 3) Determine which schools you would like to apply to.
- 4) Research Admissions **Application Deadlines** for each of your schools.
- 5) If you are eligible for any Scholarships or Special Programs through the schools (Honors Programs, Early Entry into Nursing Program, etc.)...research the deadlines for these opportunities.
- 6) **Create a spreadsheet** or some form of organization where you can record the deadlines for each school (Admission, Scholarship, and special program deadlines). Also record what each school's application requires. Do you need to write an essay for the school, do they require a teacher letter of recommendation, etc.
- 7) Use your spreadsheet to determine which school you need to apply to first, second, etc. based on the earliest deadlines. Make a game plan!!
- 8) If you have deadlines that are in October or November...start applications. Pay attention to details and follow directions closely as you work on applications.
- 9) Work on your Resume if needed. Be sure it is current and proofread.

October & November

- 1) It is recommended that all seniors start applications by October at the latest. So you want to *finish your College Visits finished before October 1st* if possible. Once you decide where you want to apply and have looked at all your deadlines, apply to the school with the earliest deadline first. Allow yourself room so you can turn in applications at least a few weeks **before the deadline.** This will save you (and your family) A TON of stress! 😊
- 2) Be sure to follow all directions given on each application and Admissions Websites. Read carefully! (If you have questions about requirements...be sure to call an Admissions Counselor at the school to get accurate information.)
- 3) Call or email each school to make sure they have your ACT/SAT Scores on record.
- 4) Determine if you will need Teacher Letters of Recommendation. Verbally ask 1 or 2 teachers if they will write you letters of recommendation. If they agree, give them a completed, blue **Letter of Recommendation Request Form** and the other documents it directs you to give each teacher.
- 5) **Essays!** Always a crowd favorite! ;) Here is a good essay tip...if an application requires an essay, do not go on to your next application until you have finished the application you started. This means that you write the required essay before moving on to a new application. This will prevent you from having all parts of your applications done except the essays...staring 1 essay in the face is very different than staring 4-5 essays in the face that need written. Be wise...write those essays before moving on to your next Application. :)
- 6) Turn in a **Pink Request Form** to Ms. Burgei. You must complete and turn in this form before we can send your *Official Transcript* and other needed items to your schools.
- 7) Stay updated on any Private Scholarships that you might qualify for. Students and parents will receive a Scholarship Bulletin from Ms. Burgei on approximately a monthly basis. These bulletins will have all Scholarship Opportunities listed that NDA is notified of.

December

- 1) Continue to work on applications.
- 2) Attend the Financial Aid Presentation in December (held at NDA in the Auditorium). This presentation will give parents and students an overview of the Financial Aid process and provide other suggestions for getting the maximum amount of aid/scholarships possible.
- 3) **Make it your goal to finish all your applications before Christmas break. You will be glad you did! :)**
- 4) Continue to apply for Private Scholarships that you are eligible for. Again, you will be notified of opportunities through a Scholarship Bulletin emailed to all seniors and senior parents.

January

- 1) Students and families can fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) Form starting on January 1, 2013. Kentucky offers a Kentucky Tuition Grant and it is a first come, first serve grant. It is recommended that families complete their FAFSA within the first 2-3 weeks of January. You do NOT need to have your income tax information or your taxes done to complete the FAFSA. It allows you to put in estimates of your income information and then later you are allowed to go back into your Application and update this information. It is to your advantage to fill out the form with estimates so you can complete it as soon as possible.
- 2) Continue to apply for any Private Scholarships that you are eligible for.

February

- 1) Continue to look for scholarships and apply to any you are eligible for.

March/April

- 1) Students usually will know if they have been accepted to schools around March.
- 2) Students will receive their Financial Aid Awards from each school they get accepted to in March or April.
- 3) Look at your options after you receive all notices of acceptance and financial aid/scholarship awards.

May

- 1) Students have until May 1, 2013 to make a final decision on which school they will attend. Students will typically be required to make some form of non-refundable deposit to the school they would like to attend by May 1st.
- 2) Students need to contact the other schools they were accepted to and notify them that they will not be attending.
- 3) This will be here before you know it...so take a deep breath and enjoy the ride! :)