

WELCOME



College Process for Seniors

September 2007

- Check that you are enrolled in the classes you need for graduation
 - Register for SAT/ACT
 - Deadline for Nov. 3 SAT is 10/2
 - Late Deadline for Oct. 27 ACT is 10/5
- Obtain CHS transcript package from guidance office
- Start asking adults for letters of recommendation
- Begin rough drafts of college applications
 - Begin college essays
- Write important dates in your calendar (college deadlines, VSAC financial aid night,
 - Check in guidance for dates college representatives will be visiting.
- Attend VSAC workshop “Finding a College That’s Right For You” 9/26
- Attend VSAC workshop “Preparing for the SAT” 9/29

College Process for Seniors

October 2007

- Start college application process with guidance office (make transcript and recommendation requests)
 - *Solicit* teacher recommendations
 - Complete college admissions application essays for early action/early decision
 - Develop college application essays – Writer’s Workshop
 - Attend VSAC Financial Aid Night on October 9th at 6:30 in the CHS Library
- Get a copy of the VSAC Scholarship booklet from the guidance office and continue researching scholarship options
- *Plan* to visit colleges you wish to see/apply to ~ schedule interview(s) if required or recommended
 - Take SAT/ACT
 - October 6 SAT
 - October 27 ACT
 - Deadline for Nov. 3 SAT is 10/2
 - Deadline for Dec.1 SAT is 10/30
- Check college catalogs for admission and financial aid deadlines
- Be sure that your official test scores are sent by the testing agency to colleges on your list
- **Watch for and make note of early application deadlines**

College Process for Seniors

November 2007

- Continue working on college admissions and scholarship applications
 - Finalize college essays for regular deadlines
 - *Obtain* financial aid applications as soon as available
 - Familiarize yourself with financial aid applications as soon as available
 - Collect teacher recommendations
- Make note of which scholarships you are eligible to apply for by reviewing the VSAC Scholarship Booklet and other scholarship resources
 - Take November 3 SAT Test (if appropriate)
 - Get FAFSA PIN online
 - Deadline for Dec. 8 ACT is 11/2

College Process for Seniors

December 2007

- Review and begin completing financial aid applications well ahead of the deadlines
 - ~ Prepare for early January
 - *Complete* and prepare to mail college application forms and essays
 - Study for exams ~ your grades are still important
 - *Continue* to watch for deadlines!
- Obtain VSAC Unified Scholarship application from the guidance office
 - Save for your college deposits and other fees
 - Take SAT/ACT (if appropriate)
 - ~December 1 SAT
 - ~December 8 ACT
- Have official test scores sent to colleges on your list, if you have not already done so.

College Process for Seniors

January 2008

- *File* FAFSA, VSAC Grant application and other required forms in early January ~ use estimated income information if necessary
 - Complete VSAC Unified Scholarship application
 - Continue to search and apply for local, state and national scholarships
- Keep working in your classes ~ grades and courses continue to count throughout senior year
 - *Request that* guidance send your first semester grades to the colleges to which you applied
 - *Photocopy* everything for your files before mailing it!
 - Save for college deposits and other expenses
 - Take SAT January 26 if applicable

College Process for Seniors

February 2008

- Watch for and respond promptly to additional financial aid information request(s) from VSAC and/or college(s)
- Look for student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail ~ respond as required & save a copy for your files
 - Look for first responses from college admissions
 - Continue to search and apply for local, state and national scholarships
 - Visit colleges on your vacation week
 - Save for college deposits and expenses
- Monitor your applications to be sure that all materials are sent and received on time and that they are complete

College Process for Seniors

March 2008

- Look for college application responses
 - Analyze your college options
 - Plan your summer opportunities
- Look for a letter from VSAC confirming that your grant application is on file. If additional information is requested ~ return corrected paperwork and save a copy for your files
 - Continue to work on scholarship applications ~ watch for deadlines
 - Continue to work on your academics ~ colleges review your grades through graduation!
 - Keep saving for college deposits and expenses ~ you will need the money!

College Process For Seniors

April 2008

- **Receive and analyze college financial aid award letters ~ ask VSAC for assistance**
 - *Question* how outside aid (such as scholarships) will affect each college award
 - *Choose* your college wisely ~ weigh all factors in your decision making (including \$\$\$)
 - *Return* the admissions acceptance letter on time
- **Send requested deposits, forms, fees, etc. to the college of your choice before the common May 1st deadline**
- **Do not commit to a college if you have not received all of your award letters ~ contact admissions offices and ask for extensions until you have received and reviewed all information**
 - **Study for exams ~ your grades still matter**
 - **Save college deposits and expenses...deposits are due NEXT month**

College Process For Seniors

May 2008

➤ ***BE PROUD*** ~ YOU HAVE COMPLETED A DIFFICULT AND TIME-CONSUMING TASK

➤ Finish the school year with a grand finale

➤ Mail your deposit to the college you plan on attending by the common May 1st deadline

➤ Ask your Outreach Counselor about education loan options or contact the VSAC loan Department at 800-642-3177

➤ Finalize financial aid arrangements

➤ Take Advanced Placement examinations (if appropriate) ~ request that your AP scores be sent to the college you will attend

College Process For Seniors

June 2008

➤ Celebrate ~ you made it to graduation

- *Notify* the Financial Aid Office at the college you will be attending of the private scholarship(s) and grant(s) you received
 - *Request* that the Guidance secretary send your final transcript to the college you will attend
 - An Outreach Counselor will be available to help you all summer ~ call VSAC at 800-642-3177 and ask for Outreach
 - Know when the payment for tuition, room and board, meal plans, and etc., is due ~ ask the financial aid office about a possible payment plan that will allow you to pay in installments (if necessary and needed)
 - Keep in touch with your Outreach Counselor as you go off to college ~ send your college e-mail address to them at info@vsac.org
 - Look for information in the mail from college about housing, orientation, course selection, roommate(s), etc. ~ respond promptly to all requests
 - Attend college orientation program

Admission Options

- ▶ Early Decision
- ▶ Early Action
- ▶ Single-Choice Early Action
- ▶ Regular Admission
- ▶ Rolling Admission

Early Decision

- ▶ Allows you to apply early, usually November, to get an admission decision well in advance of the regular admission notification date.
- ▶ *However*, Early Decision plans are **binding**.
 - That is, you agree to attend that college if they accept you and offer you an adequate financial aid package.
 - You can apply Early Decision to only one college.
 - You must withdraw all your other applications if you are accepted Early Decision.

Early Action

- ▶ Similar to Early Decision in that you can get an admissions decision earlier than the regular notification date. (UVM Early Action deadline is November 1)
- ▶ However, Early Action is usually not binding.
 - You may apply to other colleges.
 - You do not have to commit to a college to which you have applied Early Action.
 - You have a longer period to notify the college of your decision.

Single-Choice Early Action

- ▶ Similar to Early Action, but you may apply “Early,” either Early Decision or Early Action, to only one school.
- ▶ You may still apply to other schools for the regular decision deadline.
- ▶ You do not have to choose until the regular decision deadline.

Pros and Cons of Applying Early Decision

► Pros

- Bypass regular spring notification deadline.
- Avoid cost of submitting multiple applications.
- Reduce time waiting for a decision.
- Have to deal with less stress if accepted.
- May increase chances of getting into top schools; greatly increase chances of getting into less selective schools.
- May get financial aid bonus for applying early.

► Cons

- Must make serious decision before exploring all options.
- Can only apply to one school.
- Can't turn back.
- May not have time or opportunity to compare financial aid packages.
- May have no or fewer aid options.
- Have few scholarship options.
- Sometimes compete with a smaller but much stronger pool of candidates than during regular application period.
- If rejected, may feel great disappointment and discouragement.

ETHICS: Dos and Don'ts of Applying Early Decision

► Do

- Withdraw all applications upon being accepted.
- Request a release from your contract only if the college is unable to work out appropriate financial aid.
- Take your ED decision seriously.
- Discuss the cost of the college before applying.
- Attend the college that accepts you.

► Don't

- Apply to ED programs at more than one college.
- Have your counselor send transcripts to more than one ED school or to any other schools once you are admitted.
- Try to get out of an ED acceptance because you've changed your mind.
- Have someone else write or heavily edit your application essays.
- Submit deposits to more than one college.
- State an intended major you don't plan on pursuing because you think it might help you get admitted.
- Inaccurately describe your activities and accomplishments.
- State to more than one college that it is your first choice.

Regular Admission

- ▶ Deadlines vary by school.
- ▶ January 1, January 15, February 15 are typically regular admissions deadlines.
- ▶ UVM regular admissions deadline is January 15. St. Mike's regular admission deadline is February 1.
- ▶ Admissions decision notification is usually mid to late March.

Rolling Admission

- ▶ No set application deadline.
- ▶ However, once a program is full admission is closed.
- ▶ So, do not delay your application even with Rolling Admission.

What to Do if You're Wait-Listed

- ▶ You are put on a waiting list if you meet the admissions requirements, but the school has already reached its acceptance target.
- ▶ You will be admitted only if space becomes available.
- ▶ Do not wait. Contact the admissions office and make your case why you are a good fit for the school. If this is your first choice, you can guarantee that you will accept admission if it is offered.
- ▶ Keep your grades up. You may be re-evaluated based on 3rd and 4th quarter grades.
- ▶ Request another (or a first) interview.
- ▶ Prepare to attend another school. Colleges do not pull from the wait list until after the May 1 decision deadline. Therefore, you will need to commit to attending another school. If you are admitted from the waitlist and choose to attend, you will lose the deposit you made to your backup school and be required to send a deposit to the new school.

The End



Name:

	School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4	School 5	School 6
Size of Community						
Distance from Home						
Dorms/Parking						
Tuition Cost						
Financial Aid/Deadline						
Students in Major						
Retention Rate						
# Grads in this Major Placed in their Major						
Student Support Svcs						
Application Deadline						
Scholarship Deadline						

	School 1	School 2	School 3	School 4	School 5	School 6
Extra-Curricular						
Computer/Technology Integration						
Undergrad Research						
Co-Op/Internships						
Study Abroad Programs (%students)						
Student/Professor Ratio(%classes taught by TA's)						
Honors Program						
Additional Comments						

Notes/Questions

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