

College Advice from Class of 2021 to Class of 2022

Put all your writing prompts onto one google doc so you can compare themes and phrases from different essays. Plus, it makes it easier to get comments on multiple essays at once.

First make a list of everything important in a school to you, and then research schools based on that list. That's what I did!

Get started as early as possible because deadlines will come fast, and you want to have your best work to submit for your applications.

Just use all the resources you can counselors and the CCC, they are there to help you.

Remain calm! It may all seem like a lot at first but it gets easier!

Search early and stay organized. I created a table on Google docs of every college I was accepted into and listed their cost of living, cost of attendance, financial aid packages etc. In my opinion it is much easier to compare and make the best decision when you can see the pros and cons together. It is also very important that you look at location of campus. What is the crime rate like? Climate? Are there different means of transportation? Factor in everything in and around the college. Look at all deadlines as soon as possible even if you think you don't think you want to go there. Be thorough about your decision making. There is a reason why seniors look tired all the time.

Start as early as you can; that is the easiest way to reduce your stress

Stress seems to be an inevitable part of the college search process, but there are ways to lessen and manage it. My biggest tip is to take up some sort of exercise. It was a much-needed distraction, helped my physical health, and the endorphin release was a bonus. If you are an overthinker like me, have an off-limits zone where all thoughts about the future, responsibilities, and school are off-limits. This place for me was my bed. Once my head hit the pillow, it meant no more thinking about stressful things. This habit helped me lessen the tossing and turning and get a good night's sleep. The last tip I have is to start a stress journal. I noticed as college admission application time was rolling around, I was snacking a lot and discovered it was due to stress. I started writing down exactly what I was stressed about before meals, and seeing it on paper made it seem smaller and less significant. I hope these tips help you manage some of the stress because they worked wonders for me.

Start the application process during the summer before starting your senior year, so you can finish early and enjoy your senior year to the fullest.

Do independent research on the college admissions process for free with online resources such as youtube, tiktok, niche, and other useful websites to narrow down your college list, as well as learn any pointers that a paid college advisor can tell you. Every answer your questions about the college admissions process is available on the internet.

Trust your gut.

Being in the 75th percentile of a college's applicant population increases the chance that you'll be given huge scholarships (so will putting genuine interest in the school into your essays).

Ask for letters of recommendation early, and ask teachers who teach a subject relevant to your major, if possible. Also, research how many letters of recommendation are required by the colleges you are interested in.

I believe that the three most important things to consider are how good schools are for your major, how well you think you would fit in, and affordability. Start with a larger list and try to narrow it down to no more than 10 or so schools to avoid paying a lot in application fees, and only apply to schools if you would actually consider going there.

Begin researching early and don't be against changing your opinion on different schools. You may not know what you want at the beginning of the search but after lots of research you will get a better understanding of what you want in a school.

Don't be afraid to communicate with your counselor, college advisor, or other about any help you need during your college process.

Start now! I started truly researching what types of schools I should be applying to (how many safeties, reaches, targets, etc.) and diving into what I wanted in a school during the end of my junior year. Then, over the summer, start drafting your CommonApp essay.

Start early. I started searching for colleges around early august of my senior year, but that didn't give me enough time to actually sit down and thoroughly look at all my options. Also, early application is something I really wish I took advantage of because a lot of schools have deadlines for certain things and you don't want to reach that deadline for one school and still be expecting a response from another school. Lastly remember that your worth, talent, or smarts doesn't equate to the schools you get denied from. Remember that thousands of people apply to these schools. You've worked very hard to get where you are, so don't let getting denied from a school discourage you.

Apply as early as you can for the top colleges of your choice. Waiting stinks!

Do research over the summer and get an idea of what you are looking for specifically in a college. Start your essays early and revise them multiple times. Set reminders to work on applications.

Start everything early! Research, essays, standardized testing. One of the biggest head starts I got was for my college essays (finished them in the summer), and that gave me a lot more free time to apply for scholarships.

Don't compare your college journey to others'—we're all on our own path.

Apply for as many scholarships as you can.

Have more financial choices when applying and make sure you talk to parents so that you won't be stuck when it's too late to apply to other schools.

Apply for scholarships, grants, anything you can, as well as applying to colleges at the earliest times. Don't slack off your senior year either.

Apply even to colleges you don't think you'll be able to afford, because you never know what scholarships they could give you.

Don't give up! Put your all into your applications and college essays.

Get started on the common app essay early and begin writing your resume now. Write your accomplishments and awards and honors down in a document so you can reference it later. Reach out to teachers early so you can get your letters of rec on time, and give them time to write something for you, as well. Apply to lots of scholarships, too!

Make your college list now and start on your college essay. Know exactly what your GPA is, so you'll know what schools are safe and which are reach schools. Most importantly, STAY ORGANIZED!

Don't wait till the last minute for anything! Make sure you start doing your college application early, and make sure you start looking for scholarships early!

Start early so you don't panic last minute. Consider cost, location, and how the college ranks in relation to your intended major. Start applying to scholarships early.

If you can apply early, do, especially with safeties. Also, research financial aid at the schools you apply to! My dream school was a public university out of state that doesn't really do merit aid, but I ended up getting a full ride to my second choice and committing there instead.

Do not procrastinate!

Get started as soon as possible. Don't hesitate to start research now.

Start early. The earlier you start amassing information about colleges, the easier it will be for you to make an informed decision about which colleges you want to attend.

Don't stress out, but don't give up. The transition from high school to college is a little scary, but everyone is facing the same thing. You're not alone. Don't compare yourself to others. Choose the school that's best for you, and not the one others say you should. And most importantly, if you get overwhelmed, tell someone.

START EARLY, HAVE A BALANCED LIST, AND DON'T GET TOO ATTACHED TO ANY ONE SCHOOL. Here's why:

1. Start Early: Start on those essays early, or they're going to destroy you when you really start

getting into classes, extracurriculars, and main applications as well. You have to be ready and working on these even over the summer. I can't explain how important it is that you have good essays -- while you may think they're not reading them & are only looking at your grades, that's not true. Lots of schools look at the student **HOLISTICALLY** - meaning they're also going to take your essays and your entire person into account. They want to admit **YOU** - not your grades.

2. Have a Balanced List: If you have a list that's just reach schools, that's not good. Chances are low that you're going to get into one of these, and if you end up not being admitted & your list was mostly these crazy difficult schools, you're not going to have a lot of other options you're happy with. On the other hand, also make sure you do apply to some of these & don't just have a list filled with safeties and fits. If you do this, you might only get into schools that you're not really happy with and would be settling for. Creating a balanced list and doing your research on schools & ones you are seriously considering can be incredibly helpful in the process.

3. Don't Get Attached: As much as you can, don't get attached to one specific school. It just makes it that more painful if you don't get in, especially if it's a very difficult and competitive school. Instead, try to do research on many different schools and include schools on your list that you could see yourself potentially being happy at. This will help to broaden out your list so that you would be happy at a number of schools - not just this one "perfect" school. And on that point, no school is "perfect." I guarantee you that whatever your "dream school" is, it's got issues that you're looking past because you're putting it on a pedestal. **PLEASE** make sure you do your research and equally consider all schools. You don't want to go to one school you end up not being happy at just because it has a bigger name than the school that you would have felt more at home at.

Start looking right now. Even if there is a dream school you have in mind, research other schools too. Begin applying for scholarships, make your college list, and continue to get good grades. Start your essays early! They are very important and are a huge part of the college application process. Coalition is much more complex than the Common App, so keep that in mind. Start asking teachers that know you well for letters of recommendation! If you don't know what you want to major in, don't stress! So many students have no idea what they want to study; that's what college is for! Lastly, make sure you have people around you to lift you up and help you throughout this process. **PLEASE** proofread your essays! It may take a few rough drafts to get it right, ask your teachers and college counselors to read over and help perfect your essays! Good luck Class of 2022!

Do not strictly use match finder websites to determine the most fitting schools to apply. Take the time researching schools and their majors, since it not only helps with narrowing your list but also your essay writing for college applications that ask, "Why us?"