

## Senior Timeline for the College Process

- **Summer/Early Fall – Narrow Down Colleges of Choice**
  - **Review Admission Requirements for Undergraduates** - Look to see what each College/ University requires for their application:
    - GPA
    - Required classes - do they require specific high school class requirements
    - SAT or ACT - how do they use SAT/ACT - requirement for admission or freshmen class placement
  - **How to Apply**
    - **Admission deadlines** - Make a list of your top colleges' admission deadlines
    - **Bonus for early registration** - some universities have early registration, if you apply and accept early- you can receive your class schedule early
    - **Fees** - there will be a cost for each application you submit- most are nonrefundable
    - **Common App or application through college** - look to see how they are wanting you to submit an application
  - **Finances - How will you be paying for college?** Have those critical conversations now. Colleges/Universities have “Net Price Calculators” on their websites to give you an estimate of your family's EFC (what it is going to cost you to go there). If you know finances are going to be a major hurdle for you to attend college, please come by the career center - there are many options out there.
  - **Update and/or Create a Resume** - Word has templates for Resumes. Woostercolts.com (Career Center “important websites”) has templates for resumes and there are a ton of free resume building programs on the internet. Pick a resume that works best for you.
- **Fall – Admissions Process Starts**
  - **Admissions and deadlines**
    - Apply (directly to the college or through the Common App) to Universities /Colleges/Trade Schools

- **Transcripts -**
  - **Order official transcripts for Colleges/Universities that do not use the COMMON APP**
  - **Common Application** - Counselors will upload your transcript with a letter of recommendation.
  
- **Letters of Recommendation/Resume/Essays**
  - **Letters of Recommendation** - Many (not all) colleges require a recommendation letter from your counselor and 1-2 teachers. Identify which teacher/teachers (ideally from your junior or senior year) know you the best, have taught you in a core subject, and can speak to how you show up in the classroom.
    - Ask them what they need from you to write an effective letter (a brag sheet or resume)
    - **Ask EARLY** - our teachers get hundreds of requests, some have deadlines, so ask early
    - **GIVE THEM A MINIMUM OF 2 TO 3 WEEKS!** Respect their time!
  - **Essays** - write one and then tweak for different requirements
  - **Resume** - update with most current information
  
- **Late Fall/Winter - Spring -**
  - **FAFSA (December) - FAFSA will be rolling-out the application on or before December 1, 2024 (but usually opens in October)**
    - ALL of Washoe County High Schools will be holding FAFSA nights. (more information coming soon)
    - Contact TMCC or UNR Financial Aid for extra help with FAFSA (you don't need to go there to use this service)
  - **Scholarships - Start looking in the Fall thru Spring**
    - Look at the college you will be attending for first-year scholarships.
    - WHS General - Opens in October and the deadline is mid-November. One application to be eligible for 35 internal scholarships (thanks to all our wonderful WHS Donors!!)
    - Local vs National - Go Local / State to have a smaller pool of candidates. Go for those National Scholarships, but be realistic, you are going against the entire country.
    - Fast Web - tons of websites out there for scholarships. Just make sure they are legit and do not sell your name

- You can reuse/tweak essays from your College Essays (don't reinvent the wheel). **BEWARE: DO NOT USE ANY TYPE OF AI FOR COLLEGE ESSAYS**