

College Applications IvyBound To-Do List

with
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APPLICATIONS THAT GET
you ADMITTED!

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Senior Year-- Home Stretch

- If your admissions strategy is executed correctly, you may stand out from the competition and get admitted.
- For a **Seamless College Applications** process, you need to:
 - **Meticulously plan and prepare** over the fours of your high school.
 - **Cohesively put it all together--** combining your academics, tests, and extracurriculars into a solid college application that presents your best self.



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College Application Process

- The first step is to go the college website and understand its requirements.
- Use [IvyBound Consulting's College Blog](#) to delve into what the college are really looking for, and your probability of being accepted.
- After completing your college visits, finalize a balanced list of reach, target, and likely schools.
- The following slides, will highlight the steps needed to solidify your college applications so that you are a sure admit!



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1. Finalize Testing

- Finish taking your SAT/ACT, and SAT Subject tests by Fall of Senior year.
- Research what the college(s) of your choice expect in terms of Standardized tests. Do they require the SAT/ACT with essay? Do they ask for a specific SAT Subject tests? Ex. Stem majors are asked for Math II and a Science test.
- Understand if the colleges Superscore or Score Choice SAT/ACT, and its implications.
- **Admissions Tip:** Compare your test scores with that of the college's range to evaluate where you stand among other applicants.



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2. Finalize College List

- Research colleges through college fairs, college representatives, Internet, and [IvyBound Consulting's College Blog](#) tab.
- **Admissions Tip:** Finalize a manageable list of reach, target, and likely schools. **About 10-12 colleges.**
- Consider applying early to a college(s) of your choice, and regular to others on the list. Ask yourself, "Are you 100% sure about one school if applying early, or would you prefer to have options at regular round?"
- Let [IvyBound Strategists](#) optimize your application strategy, directing you where to apply early and where to apply regular.



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3. College Application

- Colleges accept: Common App, Coalition App, UC App, QuestBridge, or their own application platform. Confirm with the college and use one of them.
- Align the student's academic niche/passion to the choice of a college major.
- **Admissions Tip:** Answer the biographical and education data on the application truthfully and genuinely.
- To answer questions correctly and strategically, follow the step-by-step directions in the **Common App Instructions Guide** in **Applications that get You Admitted!**



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4. Essay Prompts

- Essays enable the college to judge your thought process and your writing ability.
- **Personal Essay:** Choose a prompt that best resonates with you. Craft a distinct narrative that expresses your love for learning & your personality.
- **Supplemental Essays:** Answer these prompts specific to the college at hand, showing your desired interest in the college.
- **Admissions Tip:** Create essays that are compelling, engaging and depict your uniqueness. Don't try to write something just to impress the admissions officers.



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5. Activity Sheet

- Your four years (grades 9-12) of extracurricular activities are uploaded here in the college applications.
- These activities may include clubs, sports, music, theater, art, community service, internships, work experience, summer activities, research, awards, etc.
- Your chosen Academic Niche should be displayed through these activities.
- **Admissions Tip:** Focus on depth vs. breadth of activities. List those activities that exhibit your commitment and leadership skills.

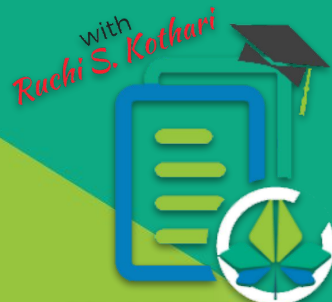


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6. Letters of Recommendations

- Well written letters of recommendations reinforce the student's college applications.
- Colleges usually ask for 2-3 letters of recommendations: 2 academic teachers, and 1 counselor of record. Other recs may be optional.
- It is preferred to choose teachers in your field of interest (ex. English teacher for an English major).
- Ask early to avoid last minute panic.
- **Admissions Tip:** Choose your best advocates, who will affirm your academic strengths and your intellectually-curious personality.



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7. Interviews

- An excellent opportunity to express your genuine interest in the college, while adding your personality to the applications.
- Usually optional-- Book them **early** as they are limited availability.
- Interviews may be conducted by an admissions officer or an alum from the college.
- **Admissions Tip:** Do your research of the college and put your best self forward, when interviewing.
- [Ivybound Consulting](#) offers guidance through mock-interviews so that you perform well on the actual ones!



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