



KICK-OFF TO COLLEGE APPS

Class of 2018



Deciding Where to Apply?

- there is no “magic number”
- an on-going sorting and selecting process
- if you are applying to schools where you are likely to get admitted, then final list can be small
- the best final list should include combination of:
 - “reach/dream schools”
 - “probable/likely admits”
 - “financial/safety”



Admission Options

- **Regular Decision**-Traditional application process, applicants accepted until a specified date, usually mid winter.
- **Rolling Admission** – No application deadline, college will take applicants until full.
- **Priority** – Apply by specified date. Applications sent after that date are considered on a space available basis



Admission Options, cont.

- **Early Action** - apply in fall, receive decision in early winter, student has until May 1 to decide, non binding
- **Early Decision** - apply in fall, receive decision in winter, binding commitment to attend if admitted and financial aid is adequate. Can only apply to 1 school early decision. Must withdraw other applications if admitted.

****NOT ALL SCHOOLS OFFER ALL ADMISSION OPTIONS**

Admission Decisions

- Admit
- **Deferred:** Applicants who are deferred are neither admitted nor denied. The college would like to review mid-year grades and other supporting material prior to making a final decision.
- **Waitlisted:** Students who are offered a spot on our wait list are neither admitted nor denied. Will be admitted if space is available.
- **Denied** (can be appealed, but admission is unlikely)





Popular Application Sites

1. apply.wisconsin.edu
 - a. good for all UW schools
 - b. \$50/\$60
2. www.commonapplication.org
 - a. one application good for over 500 schools (mostly private)
 - b. consider waiving FERPA rights
3. [http://madisoncollege.edu/apply-nowregister](https://madisoncollege.edu/apply-nowregister)
 - a. Apply early to wait list programs
 - b. \$30 application fee

Information needed to complete applications



- demographic information
- social security number
- activities and community service
- work experience
- senior year schedule
- residency information and history
- essays or personal statement (not required by all schools)



What is a complete application?

1. Submitted Application (online preferred)
2. Official Test scores received (ACT or SAT)
 - a. These must come from the testing agency to be considered official:
www.actstudent.org
3. High School Transcript received: www.parchment.com
4. Application fee paid
5. Letters of recommendation (not required by most)

Transcript Requests

- all colleges require official transcripts
- register with www.parchment.com
- create username and password
- 1st step is to select high school
- can skip the profile information and go directly to ordering transcripts
- parents must sign form electronically if under 18
- \$3.33 fee
- do not use school email
- fee waivers available for families who qualify





Test Scores

- ACT/SAT scores must come from the testing agency
- www.actstudent.org or www.collegeboard.com (SAT)
- order soon, can take 4-6 weeks for scores to arrive
- colleges will always take the highest test score
- in some cases it may be advisable to send multiple scores (superscoring)
- some selective colleges may require SAT subject tests





Test Scores Continued....

Should I take the ACT again?

- 57% increase their composite score
- 21% have no change in their composite score
- 22% decrease their composite score



Retesting can be good if your student had a circumstance that prevented them from doing their best on a test. It can also be advantageous for merit based scholarships.



Essays

- 2 types: personal statement or admission essay
- designed to help colleges get to know you
- provides a writing sample
- essays are more critical if you are borderline for admission or you if are applying to a highly competitive school
- some schools also use admission essays when evaluating for scholarships

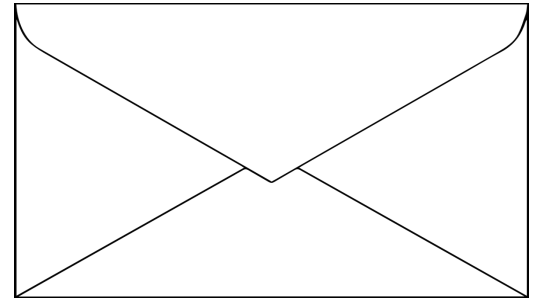
Essay Tips



- don't repeat things that can be found in other parts of your application
- proofread work
- not too long
- answer the question
- use good grammar
- use spell check
- be authentic
- “show, don't tell”

Recommendations

- not required by most colleges
- should talk to the recommender first to see if they are willing to be a write the recommendation
- share a resume with accomplishments during high school (forms in counseling)
- give teachers 2 weeks notice
- usually no more than 2 needed
- say “thank you”



UW Madison



- the only UW school that requests letters of recommendation.
- electronic recommendation forms available and preferred
- Admissions dates: Early Action November 1st and regular admission February 1st.

Financial Aid Reminders

- all schools require the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)
- www.fafsa.ed.gov
- file as soon after October 1st as possible
- can get an estimate now at www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov
- Financial Aid Night on October 25th from 6 -7
- never pay for financial aid searches!!!
- look for information and dates on College Goal Wisconsin in Enews



Scholarships



5 primary ways to search:

- scholarship search sites:
cappex.com, fastweb.com,
scholarships.com
- monthly scholarship
newsletter
- college based scholarship
- local scholarship
application

Fee Waivers



- fee waivers are available for application fees, ACT/SAT testing fees, transcripts and other college related expenses
- please see counselor if there is financial hardship



Once admitted....

- Set up college email and check it frequently
- Enrollment deposit
- Housing application and deposit
- Placement testing
- Registration/orientation session

Senioritis



- senior year courses and grades matter!
- all offers of admission are contingent upon successful completion of senior year courses
- offers of admission can be rescinded
- once admitted, students must run all schedule changes by the college



Senior Appointments

The counselors will begin doing senior appointments the second full week of school. We will go over the information provided tonight and answer any questions that students may have.

Hand outs



- UW application statements
- Common Application essays
- UW scholarship chart
- Parchment Instructions
- College Ranking Sites
- Senior checklist
- SAT vs. ACT
- And more.....

Questions....

