

## Top ten Tips for applying to College

Tip 1: Take a strong course schedule.

Tip 2: Do volunteer work. Make a difference and volunteer for activities that reflect your personality and matter to you.

Tip 3: Do well on the ACT. Get a good night's sleep and eat a good breakfast. Read the directions and pace yourself.

Tip 4: Find the school that's right for you. Explore College web sites. YouTube is also a great resource. Attend College Fairs. Better yet, schedule a campus visit.

Tip 5: Fill out the application (or complete online) accurately and well. Follow directions and fill in completely and neatly.

Tip 6: Write excellent application essays. (if applicable)

Tip 7: Submit applications as early as possible. Online applications can speed up the process.

Tip 8: Get great letters of recommendation. Choose adults who know you well. . Provide your own brag sheet. Ask for the letter well in advance.

Tip 9: Follow up on your application. Don't be afraid to check on your application.

Tip 10: Dazzle them at your college interview (if applicable). Stay calm. Practice beforehand and formulate questions to ask. Dress for the occasion. Follow-up with a thank you

## How to Survive Your Senior Year of High School

To all the high school seniors out there, everyone will tell you that this year is going to fly by, that this year is going to be so fun and memorable and, before you know it, you're saying goodbye to all your friends and family before you're finally shipped off to college. And guess what? It's completely true. So here's advice from a pre-frosh college student reminiscing on the last year of high school while packing up for college.

### 1. Even if you don't feel up to going out, do it.

I get it, maybe you're perfectly snuggled up in bed, eyes glued to your computer as you binge-watch some show on Netflix, when your friend texts you asking if you want to meet up. And of course you're too comfortable at the moment to even think about getting up and leaving. But do it. Get up and go out. See your friends while you can. You only have so much time left with these people, spend as much as you can with them. Netflix will still be there when you get back.

### 2. Senioritis is real. Don't let it overpower you.

Sure, you're not on your senior-year game, not necessarily ship-shape academics-wise, and there's definitely a deflation in motivation. Yes, grades aren't everything at the moment. But don't throw away all you've worked so hard for the past three years. You don't want to grow bad school habits that you'll only carry onto college. And don't forget, *colleges still ask for a final transcript.*

### 3. Your parents will drive you absolutely nuts. But they love you. And don't forget to tell them how much you love them.

With the stress of college applications, of course there's going to be an outburst here and there in your family. Trust me, when parents are breathing down your neck about your essays they're only doing it

they care. When they tell you that you can't leave the house until your apps are done, they're doing you a huge favor. Seniors, your parents love you. No matter how much they drive us completely insane, tell them you love them. This is your last year at home. Appreciate every moment that you have left before you go off on your own.

### 4. Not getting into your first choice school is not the end of the world. Believe me.

For most of my life, I had my entire future planned out. My heart set on one school and one school only. I can honestly tell you that getting rejected from my first choice school was the best thing that could've ever happened to me. Not only have I fallen in love with the my future home for the next four years, I've been presented with many opportunities that I didn't have available at my first choice. Things work out how they're supposed to, even if it doesn't seem like it at the time. You'll see, trust me.

### 5. If you have the slightest interest in applying to a school, just do it.

Yeah it'll be more essays to tackle, more money in the long run, but having options is important, and honestly, you might be surprised. A school you never even considered going to might be the right one for you.

### 6. Don't compare yourself to anyone else.

It's going to be hard once you start hearing all the application results. Just because your best friend gets in and you don't, doesn't mean you're any less qualified. Everyone is different and everyone brings something different to the table. Just worry about yourself. It may be hard when everyone will be pressing you about your results and those of your friends, but you can do it.

### 7. Stop worrying about what you look like/what you wear.

Yes, it'll feel great to put on that new first-day-of-school outfit, but no one is going to remember or even care what you wore. Stop fussing about if your outfit doesn't match to the dot. If your hair is a little messy, it's okay. Enjoy your last year, don't waste it trying to impress other people by how you look or by how you dress. If you're happy and confident, that's all that matters.

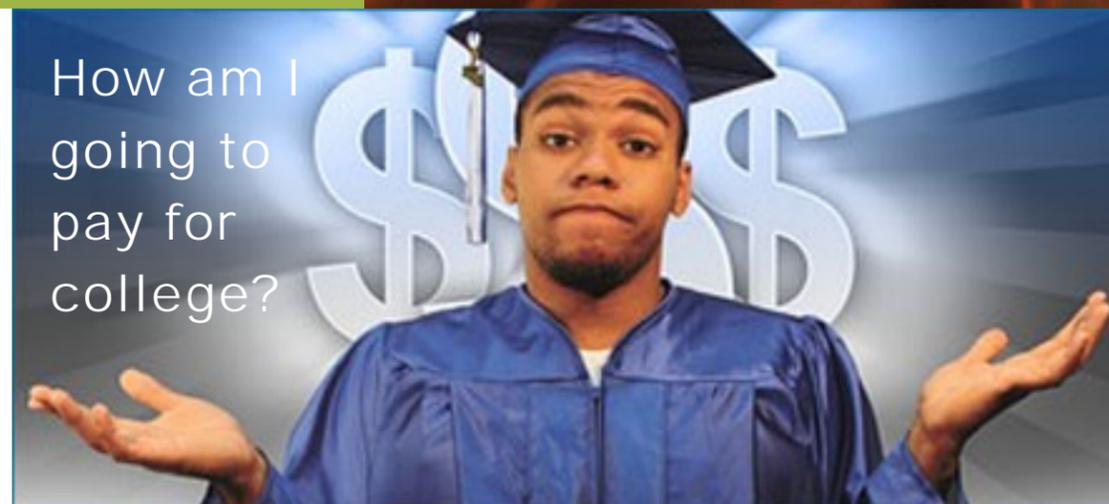
### 8. Talk to as many people as you can

Don't be afraid to branch out from your friend group. You only have one year left with your class. You never know who you've been missing out on the past three years.

### 9. Have fun, but not too much fun.

Go out, go to a party, have a great time with your friends, but remember to be careful. You don't want to have to be the kid that has to notify your college that you've been suspended from school or had to deal with the police because you thought senior year was going to be the time of your life.

-Juliann Susas, The Odyssey



## Apply for a Scholarship

Scholarships are merit-based. They consider your grades, talent or service. Best of all, you don't have to pay them back.

- **Academic scholarships** - Colleges earmark scholarship dollars every year for undergraduates. The most coveted award is the Presidential Scholarship - tuition paid in full for four years.
- **Private Scholarships.** Private foundations, companies, and service groups award scholarships. There are thousands of such scholarships available and the amount awarded varies widely depending on the provider. Private scholarships can be payable to the student, the college, or both.

## College Work Study

Work study is another form of federal financial aid that allows undergraduates to earn money for college through a part-time on campus. Students get a bi-weekly paycheck working an average of 15 hours a week. Check with the college you plan to attend to see if the Work Study program is available.

## Apply for a College Grant (FAFSA)

Like scholarships, college grants are need-based and don't have to be repaid. So, what's the difference between a grant and scholarship? College grants for undergraduates are provided by non-profit organizations - often the federal and state governments - and are often tax-exempt. FAFSA is the most common. It offers undergraduate students a maximum of \$5,550 a year in financial aid.

## Federal Student Loans

The bad news: federal student loans have to be repaid. But you don't have to begin immediately after you graduate college and most student loans are low- or no-interest. The Perkins Loan and the subsidized Direct Loan, offered by the federal government, are the best student loans for undergraduates, followed by the unsubsidized Federal Direct Loan.

## Private Student Loans

Private student loans are not federally funded and often have variable interest rates that aren't capped. Translation: Explore other college financial aid options first. If you do pursue this route, look into a ParentPLUS loan or an alternative loan in your own name. Remember to spend wisely. To determine how much you can afford to borrow for college.

## Watch out for Scholarship Scams

### Look & listen for these tell-tale lines

- "The scholarship is guaranteed or your money back."
- "You can't get this information anywhere else."
- "I just need your credit card or bank account number to hold this scholarship."
- "We'll do all the work. You just pay a processing fee."
- "The scholarship will cost some money."
- "You've been selected" by a "national foundation" to receive a scholarship – or
- "You're a finalist" in a contest you never entered.

An official-sounding name or endorsement doesn't automatically mean legitimacy: Words like "national" or "federal" or an official looking seal doesn't make a scholarship legitimate.

Don't allow yourself to be pressured into applying for a scholarship, especially if the sponsor is asking you to pay.

Legitimate scholarship applications require time

## Graduation Instructions

### Announcements/Caps and Gowns

Students must order announcements and caps and gowns at the appropriate time and pick them up prior to graduation.

### Graduation Practice

All students must attend practice on Monday, May 23rd from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00pm in order to participate in graduation.

### Graduation Pictures

All students will be photographed by professional photographers coming through the "D". No one will be allowed on the floor to take pictures.

### Diplomas

Graduates will receive a diploma cover at graduation. Actual diplomas may be picked up at the concourse immediately following graduation.

### Names on Diplomas

If you would like your name on the diploma to read differently than it is on our computers, please complete the diploma name form and return it to Mrs. Ford in the Counselors' Office. Diplomas are ordered in January; therefore, requests for name corrections after that time will not be reflected on the diploma.

### Late Graduation

Although a student may not participate in the graduation ceremony if he or she has not completed all requirements for graduation, Washington County School District allows students to complete all requirements and still receive a Dixie High School diploma up until September 30th 2017