

Heights Education Consulting

Sample Timeline for Junior & Senior Year

January

- Complete Junior College Questionnaire and submit by mid-January.
- Session: individual family meeting.
- Session: the “getting to know you” student meeting.
- Consider taking (and register for) the ACT in February and/or the SAT in March.
- Complete a financial aid calculator to see estimated college costs.

Feb-March

- Register for Spring testing—SAT (March, May, or June) or ACT (February, April, June, July)
- Session: college research prep
- Session: develop college list
- Schedule college visits during Spring Break or April long weekends.
- Research colleges online
- Think about summer plans (apply for jobs/internships)

March-June

- Take SAT and/or ACT
- Session: discuss possible essay topics
- Session: draft & submit resume for review
- Session: create spreadsheet for college application process
- Prepare for and take AP exams
- Ask Junior Year teachers to write recommendation letters (if applicable).
- Finalize summer plans.
- Sign up for CEBC (College Essay Boot Camp)

Summer Before Senior Year

In the summer before Senior year, most of our clients attend College Essay Boot Camp, a two-week workshop designed to help HEC students craft their personal essays for college applications.

- Complete CEBC (College Essay Boot Camp)
- Create file for your college essays
- Visit colleges and continue to research colleges.
- Read, talk to current students, attend virtual or in person sessions, interview over summer if offered while visiting the college!

- Prepare a formal college list, complete with a paragraph that offers a detailed rationale for each school. Your goal is to narrow your list to 10-15 schools and include 3-5 schools within each category of admissibility (Reach, Target, Likely)
- Create/Polish an official resume
- Edit and polish your first college essay (650 word personal statement)
- Begin applying for fall fly-in programs if you meet eligibility criteria

August (4 Sessions, Once Per Week)

- Schedule an individual feedback session with one of us to go over essays, resume, and college list
- Schedule weekly meetings with us to help with revisions on essays, resumes, and college lists.
- Register for our September Application Boot Camp (ABC)
- Check your school's Naviance and College Counseling resources routinely to make sure you know about upcoming college visits or college fairs. If possible, attend a college visit for every college on your list.
- Register to retake the SAT/ACT if you would like to try for higher scores.
- Create an account on www.commonapp.org. Be sure to write down and remember your username and password.
- Post colleges that are on your list to your Common App account and begin reviewing supplements
- Session: Schedule a meeting with us to talk about strategies for tackling proprietary essays, supplements, and short answer questions.

September (4 Sessions, Once Per Week)

- Choose teachers to write your recommendation letters no later than Sep. 15. Ask them in person to write for you and notify them of your deadlines (most commonly Nov. 1)
- Finalize your college list and post colleges and deadlines on your spreadsheet.
- Research scholarship opportunities
- Request admission interviews/alumni interviews (Consider interviewing at a likely school first).
- Check test score policies and have your test scores sent to your schools if required. Scores should be sent 4 weeks before your application deadline. Check to see if schools allow self-reported scores.
- Attend regional information sessions in San Antonio for colleges that interest you
- Retake SAT or ACT (if still trying to improve scores)
- Keep your grades up. Colleges will see mid-year grades, so make sure you aim for a strong academic year in your senior year.

October (4 Sessions, Once Per Week)

- Begin submitting applications (Apply to UT and Texas A&M by Oct. 1)
- Prepare an application checklist and calendar to help keep you on track
- Plan out early decision/early action applications and stay aware of your deadlines.
- Gather financial documents and complete FAFSA (available Oct. 1) and CSS profile if required, using tax data from “prior-prior year.” Apply by deadlines posted at each school.
- Have your official test scores sent to any schools recently added to your list if required.
- Retake ACT/SAT (if still trying to improve scores)
- Be proactive with scholarship applications—research opportunities, request required materials from teachers and don’t miss deadlines.

November (4 Sessions, Once Per Week)

- Complete applications for EA/ED deadlines (11/1 or 11/15)
- Complete FAFSA or CSS Profile for need based aid if required
- Look ahead to Dec. 1 deadlines and prioritize applications
- Scholarship Application for merit-based scholarships often have deadlines that are before actual application deadlines. In other cases, you must apply by a priority deadline in order to be considered for a scholarship.
- Goal: Submit remaining applications by the end of Thanksgiving Break.

December (2 Sessions, Once Every Two Weeks)

- If you receive an offer of admission based on a binding early decision application, you will need to withdraw all other applications. (Decisions are released around Dec. 15)
- Individual consultations are recommended to discuss outcomes from early action/early decision and to assess next steps.

January (2 Sessions, Once Every Two Weeks)

- As you hear from schools, update your spreadsheet to show status of application (accepted, waitlisted, deferred, denied)
- Consult with us about application status to assess next steps.

Spring Semester January - May (2 Sessions, As Needed)

- Keep your grades competitive.

- Consider sending a single email to each college updating admissions officers on any new developments/accomplishments/awards that have occurred since you submitted your application.
- By April 1 you should hear back from all of your colleges.
- Visit colleges where you have been admitted (register for Admitted Student events!)
- If you are waitlisted, April is the time to show how much you love that school. Consult with us on how to advocate for yourself when you are placed on a wait list.
- Continue to apply for scholarships with spring deadlines.
- Compare your financial aid and scholarship packages. Consider academic programs, school culture, and where you think you will be happy and successful. You can make one and only one deposit to hold your spot in the freshman class of one school.
- Share your news with us!! Write thank you notes to teachers who wrote recommendation letters.

IMPORTANT DATE(S)

- May 1: National Candidates' Reply Date
 - Make a deposit by May 1. Notify all colleges to which you were admitted where you have decided to matriculate.
 - After May 1, if you get offered a spot at another school off the waitlist then you can accept that spot and withdraw from the school where you made your initial deposit.