

# **Helpful Considerations**

## **1. Submitting the application.**

Be very careful to meet the deadline for submitting your applications. UC applications are due November 1<sup>st</sup> through November 30<sup>th</sup>. CSU applications are due starting October 1<sup>st</sup> to November 30<sup>th</sup>. Private colleges have a variety of deadlines – please research each institution’s deadline.

There are different “action types” that govern when to submit the application, when it will be reviewed by an admissions committee, when a decision is rendered, and when a student must accept or decline an offer.

### **Some common action types you will consider:**

#### **Early Decision**

You apply in early fall, learn of the decision in December, and must accept or reject the offer of admission within weeks. If accepted, the student must withdraw all other applications to other colleges and universities. Students are often required to pay a nonrefundable deposit at the time of acceptance. Some very competitive independent colleges and universities use this action type. Students should only do this if they are 100% certain that this is the college or university they want to attend. Downside: the student must make a decision before a financial picture is known.

#### **Early Action**

Students apply in the early fall and learn of the school’s decision to admit, decline, or defer you by January 1. In most cases, the student has until May to decide whether to accept or decline an offer. Students may apply to other schools after hearing of the school’s decision. Early action decisions are final, and rejected applicants are not reconsidered.

#### **Regular Admissions**

The most commonly used application process. Check with the college for their deadline. California State and UC campus deadline is November 30<sup>th</sup>.

#### **Rolling Admissions**

Students apply beginning in the fall of their senior year and learn of acceptance or rejection in a matter of weeks. The decision is made as soon as the application is complete. This action type is used by a wide variety of schools nationwide.

#### **Open Admissions**

Colleges following this option accept all qualified applicants who apply. This type of action is available at some publicly funded schools. (Typical of CSU system)

#### **Deferred Admissions**

A student may defer attendance for up to one year allowing time to travel, earn money or pursue a nonacademic interest. If choosing this process, be sure to double-check with the college to be sure they allow this.

#### **Wait List**

Qualified candidates are placed on this list after a school has accepted its allotment of applicants. Wait lists are used to admit a student when fewer accepted candidates enroll than expected. Check the wait policy at your intended school to determine exact policy.

## **2. Take time with your application(s).**

Apply on-line if possible. This helps ensure neatness and accuracy. If submitting a hard copy, make sure it is neat and accurate. Type it if possible. It is impossible to be too neat, but easy to be careless and make a poor impression. Use your legal name on all correspondence, housing, and financial aid forms, transcripts, applications, and test registration forms. Make a copy of the application prior to mailing. Purchase a "certificate of mailing" in case your application is lost or the delivery is delayed. This is your proof that you met the application deadline.

## **3. A strong essay may be very important.**

The University of California and most independent colleges require an essay as part of the admission application. This essay is your personal statement providing information that does not appear on your transcript, test reports, and other materials asked for in the application process. The most effective essays will give the reader insight into your thinking process rather than a measure of known facts. Further information and assistance is available in the College & Career Center and on this website.

## **4. Recommendations may be required by independent colleges; plan ahead.**

Request them early; a rushed recommendation may not be in your best interest. Go to your counselor, teacher, administrator, or the individual you are asking to write a recommendation at least one month before the deadline. Remember to write a "Thank You" note to each person who wrote a recommendation. Courtesy is never out of style.

## **5. Make application to more than one college unless you are absolutely sure of admission.**

Six-eight applications should be more than sufficient. Be sure to submit applications in all these categories below:

- a. "Reach" colleges/universities – Their freshman profile exceeds your academic profile.
- b. "Target" colleges/universities – Their freshman profile matches your academic profile.
- c. "Safety" colleges/universities – Your profile exceeds their freshman profile.

Students who plan to apply to the University of California or California State University should apply to more than one campus within the system. Many campuses have become impacted and turn away eligible students they are unable to accommodate due to enrollment constraints.

## **6. Meet deadline dates.**

Deadline dates are non-negotiable, especially at prestigious and highly competitive schools.

## **7. Make sure your college file is complete.**

If you have not been notified that the college has received your application, contact the college admissions office and ask if any materials are needed to complete your file, i.e., scores, transcripts, recommendations etc.