

# Edgewater High School College & Career Center

## Senior Year College Application Checklist

(Modified Month-by-Month Senior Year College Application Timeline by Allen Grove on [www.about.com](http://www.about.com))

Senior year is a busy and extremely important time in the college admissions process. This is your last chance to get the ACT and SAT scores you need, and senior year is when you have to narrow down your college options to the handful of schools to which you will apply. You will need to get your college essay up to snuff, line up your letters of recommendation, and apply for financial aid. During the application process, you will need to keep active in extracurricular activities and maintain high grades.

Visit the EHS College and Career Center located in Student Services. Explore the College and Career Center web page ([www.edgewaterhs.ocps.net](http://www.edgewaterhs.ocps.net); the center is listed under the Student Services tab) for links to common forms and helpful articles. Be sure to follow EHS College and Career Center on Instagram at [edgewater.ccrcc](https://www.instagram.com/edgewater.ccrcc) for up-to-date resources and information. Ms. Rimmer is here to help you with your questions.

### August/September

- ✓ Develop a balanced list of colleges that includes safety, target and reach schools, both academically and financially. If you are looking for university-sponsored merit scholarships, consider that you should be in the top 10-15% of the college's applicant pool. Your list should be between 3 and 8 colleges. Carefully and honestly consider your interests, strengths, and weaknesses. Some helpful websites include SCOIR, [www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com), [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org), [www.mycollegeoptions.org](http://www.mycollegeoptions.org), and [www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com).
- ✓ List all colleges you are applying to in your SCOIR account. SCOIR is located on your OCPS Lauchpad. Listing the schools you are applying to will help the CCRC notify of you special programs or information specific to that school.
- ✓ Explore the websites of the colleges that interest you to learn about admissions requirements. Pay particular attention to early decision, early action, and preferred application deadlines.
- ✓ Confirm that you have taken or registered for all required standardized tests. If necessary, register for the ACT, SAT, at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) or [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org). Register early. Spots fill up quickly!
- ✓ Check your senior year class schedule to make sure you are taking the classes you will need for your top-choice colleges.
- ✓ Review your high school transcript and check it for accuracy. Closely review your courses, grades, and community service hours. See you counselor for any corrections that are needed.
- ✓ Clean up your social networking pages and use only a professional-sounding e-mail account.
- ✓ Begin admission applications and begin thinking about potential topics for your personal essay.
- ✓ Write down account login information and passwords for every account!
- ✓ Complete your "senior brag sheet." A blank Brag Sheet can be found on the EHS website (click on Student Services tab, under College & Career/Forms) and on the College & Career Canvas page (under Student Body).
- ✓ Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss the colleges to which you are thinking of applying.
- ✓ Utilize the College & Career Resource Center to speak to visiting college representatives. A listing of all of representatives, dates and times will be advertised on CANVAS. Dress for success and come with questions about their campus and programs. Send a thank you note to the representative.
- ✓ Continue to accumulate and record community service hours.
- ✓ Take leadership roles in clubs, activities, and volunteer organizations and continue to update your high school resume. A template for this resume can be found on the College and Career Center web page ([www.edgewaterhs.ocps.net](http://www.edgewaterhs.ocps.net); the center is listed under the Student Services tab).

- ✓ Request letters of recommendation from teachers, guidance counselors, coaches, and employers. Give each recommender a copy of your resume and brag sheet, and make certain they understand how they are expected to submit the letter.

## **October/November**

- ✓ Research financial aid and scholarships. Do the colleges on your list require a separate financial aid or scholarship application? Do they have a priority deadline to apply to be considered for scholarships?
  - ✓ Some scholarships will be advertised on CANVAS and Instagram and a list will be maintained on the College & Career CANVAS page. Review the test, GPA, and community service requirements for the Bright Futures scholarships at [www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org](http://www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org).
- ✓ Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Financial Aid) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), as early as October. Many schools have deadlines for submission in January. Please make sure you are aware of these deadlines. Complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE for non-federal aid funds at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org), if required by the colleges on your list (this is not common).
- ✓ If you are a student athlete, register with [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) and/or [www.naia.org](http://www.naia.org), if you have not already done so.
- ✓ Visit campuses and interview with college representatives if appropriate.
- ✓ Submit “transcript request” form if required. Many schools will instead want you to complete the SSAR or SPARK (UCF). Complete the required form so you are ready to link it to individual colleges when you have applied.
- ✓ Take advantage of college fairs. College fairs will be advertised on CANVAS and Instagram. Visit <http://www.nacacnet.org> for a schedule of (virtual) college fairs for Fall 2021.
- ✓ Get your college essay in shape. Get feedback on your writing from a guidance counselor and/or teacher. Ms. Rimmer in the College and Career Center will happily read your essay also.
- ✓ Keep track of all application components and deadlines: applications, test scores, letters of recommendation, and financial aid materials. A form (College Application Checklist) is available on College & Career page of website to help you with this.
- ✓ Do not let your grades slide. It is easy to be distracted from schoolwork when working on applications. Senior slump can be disastrous for your admissions chances.
- ✓ Make sure you have submitted all components of your applications if you are applying to colleges with November deadlines for early decision or preferred application. UF and FSU have application deadlines of November 1.
- ✓ Continue to research scholarships.
- ✓ Attend the Financial Aid Night hosted by the EHS Guidance Department.
- ✓ Do not put off applying to schools with rolling admissions or late deadlines; the available spaces can fill up.

## **December/January/February**

- ✓ Complete your applications for regular admissions.
- ✓ Make sure you have had your test scores sent to all colleges that require them.
- ✓ Confirm that your letters of recommendation have been sent.
- ✓ Complete the FFAA (Florida Financial Aid Application) when it opens in December. This application is for the Bright Futures program but also covers many other state-run scholarship & grant programs. ALL students are encouraged to apply.
  - ✓ If you are accepted to a school through early decision, be sure to follow directions carefully. Submit required forms and notify the other schools to which you applied of your decision.
  - ✓ Continue to focus on your grades and extracurricular involvement. Keep your high school resume current.
  - ✓ Have midyear grades sent to colleges, if required.

- ✓ Continue to keep track of all deadlines and application components.
- ✓ Continue to research scholarships. Apply for scholarships well in advance of deadlines.

## March

- ✓ If you submitted the FAFSA, you should receive the Student Aid Report (SAR). Carefully look it over for accuracy. Errors can cost you thousands of dollars.
- ✓ Keep your grades high. Colleges can revoke offers of admission if your grades take a nosedive senior year.
- ✓ Review your Bright Futures Early Evaluation once completed. See your counselor with any concerns.
- ✓ Some acceptance letters may arrive. Compare financial aid offers and visit campus before making a decision.
- ✓ Continue applying for appropriate scholarships.

## April/May

- ✓ Keep track of all acceptances, rejections, and waitlists on SCOIR. If waitlisted, learn more about waitlists and move ahead with other plans. You can always change your plans if you get off a waitlist.
- ✓ If you have ruled out any colleges that accepted you, notify them. This is a courtesy to other applicants, and it will help the colleges manage their waitlists and extend the correct number of acceptance letters.
- ✓ Go to “accepted student open houses” if offered.
- ✓ Avoid senioritis! An acceptance letter does not mean you can stop working.
- ✓ Most schools have a deposit deadline of May 1st. Do not be late!
- ✓ Have your final transcripts sent to the college you will attend.
- ✓ Send thank you letters to everyone who helped you in the application process. Let your mentors and recommenders know the results of your college search.
- ✓ Keep on top of procuring student loans. Notify your college if you receive any scholarships.
- ✓ Graduate. Congratulations!