

# Mrs. McLaughlin's "Get Ready for College" Timeline

(Adapted From Ms. Ruth Drews' timeline—College Advocate Hillhouse HS, CT)

## August-September

- 1) **Schedule your Senior Meeting: Check your emails in August for link and schedule of meetings.**
- 2) College Research:
  - a. Make a list of at least 5 colleges (Be sure choices include; Reach, Safety, and Back Up options)
  - b. Use websites, such as [bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org) or [niche.com](http://niche.com) to help with research and creating lists
  - c. Consider tuition breaks: WUE Schools, good neighbor states
  - d. Consider if you want to take/retake the SAT/ACT: Do your research, "Do the colleges I want to go to require test scores?"
  - e. College visits if possible, even for UNR!
- 3) College Applications:
  - a. **KNOW YOUR DEADLINES!!!!**
    - i. Early Action vs Early Decision (Binding)
    - ii. Always try to apply by the Early Action deadline for your best chances. Usually, November 1<sup>st</sup>
  - b. APPLICATIONS (Direct, Common App, or Coalition App)
    - i. Always go with a direct application on the university website when an option
    - ii. If Common App or Coalition App is needed, register for an account and begin ASAP, these application are extensive with multiple essays...do not procrastinate!
  - c. ESSAYS
    - i. Start writing your essays, especially if using the Common App—check your colleges online for suggested/required essay topics, utilize your teachers and me for help.
  - d. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
    - i. Only request a letter IF the college requires it for admission and ONLY request/submit the number of letters that are requested. Ex: If the application states one letter of rec, only submit the one letter, no need to go above and beyond as admissions recruiter read everything submitted.
    - ii. Alert and ask your teacher/s or counselor to write your recommendation letter at least 2-3 weeks prior to needing the letter. Please be sure to complete and submit the "Senior Profile" with your request. (Located on the NS counseling page/12<sup>th</sup> grade link)
    - iii. It is suggested to ask a teacher who knows you well and teaches in the subject in which you are looking to major.
    - iv. Do not forget to send your teacher a THANK YOU.
  - e. TRANSCRIPTS
    - i. Official transcripts for applications must be requested through the district via SCRIBS.  
**Counselors do not send out transcripts**
  - f. OFFICIAL TEST SCORES if submitting
    - i. Must be sent directly through the testing body (ie Collegeboard (SATs and AP scores) and ACT)
- 4) Local Colleges:
  - a. UNR application opens/ UNR Early Action Date: **Sept 1<sup>st</sup>** Application deadline: **Usually in the spring**
  - b. TMCC Rolling Application

## October

1. CHECK YOUR FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES FOR YOUR SCHOOLS!
2. Do the FAFSA(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
  - a. OPENS **OCTOBER 1ST**
  - b. Required by all colleges and utilized for a variety of reasons, including scholarship opportunities.
  - c. Complete regardless of income.
  - d. Not for student loans ONLY; can be used to participate in Work Study programs AND for grants (free money for college)
  - e. Early completion recommended, especially if grant eligible.
3. Attend Virtual and In Person College fair (**Date TBD**)
4. **Oct 31<sup>st</sup>**: Deadline to apply for the NV Promise
5. Check your Student Aid Report (SAR) and make corrections if necessary

## November

- 1) General Early Action Deadline for many universities: **Nov 1<sup>st</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>** ∴ Check your schools for deadlines.
- 2) If still working on applications:
  - a. Continue to DO YOUR ESSAY(S)! Get at least 2 adults to proofread it for you. (Start application Supplement essays if required).
  - b. Complete a DRAFT of ESSAYS you need to write by Thanksgiving—at the latest!
- 3) Apply for Scholarships. There is a lot of free money **\$\$\$\$** out there!!! Go to Counseling website for links to scholarships.

## December

- 1) If you applied Early Action, notices of admission will generally come in December.
  - a) If wait listed and college is a top choice, contact college! Send email to admission rep, stating why you want to attend this college. Shows dedication and interest.
- 2) GET ALL YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS FINISHED AND SUBMITTED!
- 3) Finish all your SAT/ACT testing, if doing—Subject tests also, for selective colleges
- 4) Clear out/declutter your email. Important stuff will be coming in from your colleges
- 5) Do not lose your W-2 from your jobs (it comes in January—be alert)

## January

- 1) Request 7<sup>th</sup> semester transcript through SCRIBS if required (see 12<sup>th</sup> grade page on counseling website)
- 2) Maintain good grades—grades are key for scholarship eligibility!
- 3) If you have applied to a rolling admissions school and have not heard, check your online application, call or email to be sure they have all your information.

## February

- 1) **Feb 15<sup>th</sup>** : UNR application deadline for scholarship consideration. Must have admission application on file by Feb 1<sup>st</sup> for consideration.
- 2) Check all your financial aid deadlines and do not miss them!
- 3) Get ALL your college applications finished. Check to be sure nothing is missing.
- 4) Read your mail and KEEP important information, acceptance letters, ID numbers, and so forth

## March

- 1) **March 1<sup>st</sup>**: NV Promise Scholarship training due
- 2) Take placement exams. TMCC and UNR will accept Accuplacer scores if you scored low on the ACT/SAT. The Accuplacer is **free** for your first time and \$20 for retakes at TMCC.
- 3) Update your FAFSA. Enter final tax info and clean up all paperwork for financial aid
- 4) Check email OFTEN for important messages from colleges about missing information!
- 5) Do VERIFICATION QUICKLY if required.

- 6) SAVE MONEY for enrollment deposit typically due May 1

## April—May

- 1) **Spring**: UNR Application deadline for the fall
- 2) For most 4 year colleges, final decision time! Compare financial aid offers. VISIT colleges if at all possible, get ready to SEND IN ENROLLMENT DEPOSIT by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**
- 3) Keep checking your mail, email, and NEW college email if assigned.
- 4) DO NOT LOSE any paperwork sent by your college. Yes, there is more—roommate questionnaires, health information, emergency notification, Orientation Registration. BE A RESPONSIBLE COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT!
- 5) Email the colleges you will not attend, so other wait-listed students can have a chance to get in.
- 6) Thank all who helped you apply (in writing—good practice!)

## June

- 1) **June 1<sup>st</sup>** : Nevada Promise deadline to meet with mentor and submit 8 hours of Community service
- 2) Get that health insurance information taken care of to save yourself money!
- 3) Do all your paperwork—don't lose anything. Call your school if you miss something—this is your responsibility, and you are empowered to do it.
- 4) **1 Week after graduation: Send your final transcript to your college via SCRIBS. This will NOT come from your counselor**
- 5) Continue to check your college email—colleges are saving money by sending you information electronically
- 6) **CONGRATULATIONS! Go on to the next adventure of your life!**