

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

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

September 2022

August-September

- 1) **Make an appointment for your senior meeting with Mrs. McLaughlin after the workshop on 9/7/22:**
<https://tinyurl.com/HMcLaughlin>
- 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 or niche.com to help with research and creating lists
 - c. Consider tuition breaks: WUE Schools,
 - 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 1st
 - 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/12th 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 1st** Application deadline: **April 7, 2023**
 - 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 soon to be released**)
4. **Oct 31st**: 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 1st/15th** ∴ 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 7th semester transcript through SCRIBS if required (see 12th 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 15th** : UNR application deadline for scholarship consideration. Must have admission application on file by Feb 1st 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 1st**: 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) **April 7th**: 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 1st**
- 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 1st**: 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!**