



Oasis Academy

College Timeline

Freshman Year

- Join clubs; try a new sport or activity
- Focus on your grades: they matter!

February:

- Discuss class selection for sophomore year...challenge yourself!
 - Contact NCAA if you are even considering playing a sport in college
They have fairly stringent class guidelines that any potential student athlete should be aware of early
- Start a "Resume File"
You are beginning a system to jot down any accomplishments, clubs, awards...it is amazing how easy it is to forget, what you have participated in, when you are a Senior, trying to put your resume together for college applications and letters of recommendation

Sophomore Year

- Begin thinking seriously about WHERE you would like to go to college?
 - Consider questions such as:
 - Location? Close to home, explore a new part of the country, etc...
 - Size? Large, small...what type of environment do you learn best in?
 - Small classes, same sex schools/classes? Are you easily overwhelmed by large lecture halls?
 - Liberal, conservative, catholic?
 - Public university vs. private college?
 - What are your passions, favorite classes? Any sense for what you want to major in?
 - If on vacation, visit a school nearby (even if it is not one you are considering) to get a sense of what it feels like to be on a college campus
- Take the practice PSAT
- Get good grades! The vast majority of scholarship aid is merit aid: grades matter!

February:

- Discuss class selection for junior year in JumpStart
- Register with NCAA clearinghouse if you are considering playing a sport in college

Junior Year

Summer/Fall:

- Introduce yourself to Mr. Lenon and Mrs. Venturacci. The better we know you the more we can help
- Take some college tours
 - Tour UNR
Even if you do not think you want to go there it will give you some context for what you want or don't want...you may be surprised!
- Take the PSAT
 - Opens up scholarship dollars for high achieving (National Merit Scholar) students
 - Score will give you a ballpark for how you test
- Identify which standardized tests that you will be taking (SAT, SAT 2 subject tests, ACT)
 - Register early, for as many as possible, your junior year, as you may feel that you need to take certain tests again
- Build a college wish list

Your list should have 10-15 colleges that you are interested in
Begin to research the required GPA and test score ranges, and learn more about them via school websites, College Greenlight (www.collegegreenlight.com), Big Future (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>) or "The Fiske Guide"

Your goal should be to have a somewhat final list the summer between your junior and senior year

A balanced list creates options!

Your list should include schools that your GPA/standardized test scores are within the median of the admitted student, above the median and one or two reach schools (highly selective and/or your scores are below the median)

- Consider which teachers you would like to write a recommendation letter for you
Reach out to them, build those relationships

February:

- Discuss class selection for your senior year with your counselor
Not a time to slack off-- challenge yourself if you can get A's or B's

Spring:

- Junior Interview
- Tour some of the colleges on your list
Start to give some colleges priority over others, eliminating some
Ideally building a list of 6-10 schools that you want to apply to
- Come see your Counselor and Academic Advisor for help
We will be working through the college application process, discussing key components of the college application and answering your questions
- Develop some template essay topics if you are interested in applying for scholarships or to schools that require an essay
The essay, for competitive schools, is a defining piece of your application packet
Choosing a topic can be the toughest part
Think about it early...identify experiences that have shaped you and/or give insight into your personality (your strengths)

June:

- The last available dates to take SAT, SAT subject tests or ACT tests as a junior

Senior Year

Summer between junior/senior year:

- Do something interesting with your time!
- Primary essay draft complete if you are applying for scholarships or to schools that require an essay
Be aware that many of the more highly selective schools require supplemental essays
Review the topics, develop your drafts
- The Common Application is an online application accepted by about 700+ schools
(<https://www.commonapp.org>)
If you are interested in applying to schools that accept the CA it becomes available August 1st: familiarize yourself with it
Ideally, fill out as much as possible before school starts
- Determine if you will be taking/re-taking any standardized tests
Register early
- Resume
Update your resume listing your high school accomplishments

Early Fall:

- Check in with Mr. Lenon and Mrs. Venturacci to make yourself aware of any college visits to your school or community
- Request your letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors by mid-September
-Include your resume in the request

Allows teachers to write about you easier

-Include instructions for submitting the recommendation (via the Common Application?

-Sent directly to the school? Sealed letter given to you?)

-Educate yourself about early decision/admission application deadlines

Develop an application strategy

NOTE: MERIT AID DEADLINES ARE OFTEN EARLIER THAN REGULAR DECISION APPLICATION DEADLINES – Do your research so you don't miss out

Requires you to begin to finalize your list of schools that you want to apply to

Develop a simple spreadsheet with basic stats of school (population, cost, required tests, application deadlines)

Can always add one or two later on...

-Have one person (ideally an English teacher) review your essay/personal statement for any grammatical errors

Will you be applying for scholarships?

If so, research what is out there

Be strategic, only apply to those that are looking to award your talents, accomplishments, ethnicity, background (there are a ton out there, can be incredibly time consuming, choose wisely)

-Continue to focus on academics, getting solid grades

November/December:

APPLY!

-Be aware of early application deadlines, restrictions, etc...

January:

-Fill out the FAFSA as close to October 1 as possible

Use your tax information from the two years' prior if your prior year's return is not yet complete, check "will file"

You can update your financial information once you officially file, holding your priority spot for aid distribution (first come, first serve)

-Fill out CSS Profile for any private schools

Some private schools request the CSS Profile with your application

Again, first come/first serve

The award may be a defining factor in your school selection

Best to have this information as early as possible

Spring

Apply to any last minute school, although ideally this will be done!

Have fun! Relax!

Remember that we all face rejection, it is not personal

You will end up where you are meant to be!