

## **Let's talk about applications!**

First, most applications for you will not open til August 1<sup>st</sup>, so you have plenty of time before this happens. The main application types we see students at Redwood using are the following:

- The Common Application, <https://www.commonapp.org/apply>. This is one application for hundreds of schools, and helps streamline your applications. Currently there are over 800 schools using this platform. There is a main essay, used by many of the schools on this application, and you can choose from a variety of topics/ themes. Some schools may require supplemental questions or essays, and as you add them to your lists within the application, they will clearly show you any requirements.
- The Coalition Application, <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org>. This is a similar idea, over 140 schools on this application system. Some schools will overlap, and you can choose either Coalition or Common Application, up to you. In general, the Common Application is more user friendly, so if you have the option of either, might be easier to use the Common Application. There is no additional benefit to using one application over another, the idea is to make it easier and more accessible to students.
- Cal State Apply, <https://www2.calstate.edu/apply> is used for our 23 California State University campuses only. Application opens on 10/1, and must be submitted before 11/30. These are strict deadlines.
- University of California has their own application, <https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu>, and this is used as one application for all 9 UC campuses. Application opens on 8/1, however, can only be submitted from 11/1-11/30. These are strict deadlines.

If you are applying to an international school, please be aware that there may be different deadlines, calendars, and applications, so do your research!

## **Application deadlines and types:**

Learn the difference between "Early Action", "Early Decision", "Regular Decision", "Rolling Admissions". These different types of admission may change your due dates, as well as may change the material a college will evaluate. For example if you apply Early Action or Early Decision, you will not be including your fall grades on your application. They still count, and will later be seen by the college, if your are admitted, but they will not be part of the GPA calculation, since you will not have any final grades in November.

## **Essays:**

Most colleges will want to see a writing sample. It may be the general essay on the common application, it could be the insight questions on the UC application, or it can be supplemental questions from the college on the application platform. Here are some tips for college essays, and how to start thinking about what to write:

[http://www.collegeadmissioncoach.com/uploads/5/8/1/4/5814510/7\\_essay\\_tips.pdf](http://www.collegeadmissioncoach.com/uploads/5/8/1/4/5814510/7_essay_tips.pdf)

### **Letters of Recommendation:**

Identify teachers that you would like to write a letter of recommendation on your behalf for college admissions. Please have a conversation with that teacher to make sure that they will be able to do so. Your teachers are happy to support you in this process, but they need advance notice, and may be limited as to how many letters they will be able to effectively write. Also, in the fall, when you reconnect with those recommenders, make sure you are letting them know about your application deadlines, and give them **at least one month's advance notice!**

### **Testing:**

To test, or not to test? This is an unusual year for applications, and we will be seeing many differentials in the area of ACT/ SAT requirements. It is very important that you research if you will need to have a required test at the schools where you will be applying. For the class of 2021, many schools may be test optional, while others are still requiring a standardized test. **I would recommend that you plan on a test, and then you have the option to apply to any college of choice, and if your score is not beneficial, you may choose to not include it in your application at a test optional school.** The College Board (administrators of the SAT) and ACT.org, are planning to increase their testing dates in the fall, and should have a new schedule out by next month. If you are planning to take the test, you may look at any August, September, October, or November options. For some schools, you may even be able to test in December, and have your results in time for submitting your application. If you are testing, you need to also look at when your colleges want your scores submitted. Many schools require official test scores at application deadlines, while others may not want official scores until you have been accepted.

### **Athletes:**

Do you want to play sports in college at a Division 1 or 2 level? If the answer is a yes or even a maybe, you may want to register on the NCAA website.

### **Next fall:**

We hope to host over 125 college representatives from schools across the country on our Redwood campus. This is your chance to ask questions specific to a school you may be interested in applying, and have the representative in front of you who will likely be reading your application! Please prioritize these

meetings, they can be extremely helpful, especially with so many closures this spring, I'm sure you've not been able to visit all of your schools of interest.

We are also planning to offer SMART periods for seniors every week to help with your applications, essays, and any other piece of the college process.