



Planning For College: An Insider's View

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Presentation Overview

- The College Timeline
 - ✓ Freshman Year/Sophomore Year
 - ✓ Junior Year
 - ✓ Senior Year-Fall
 - ✓ Senior Year-Spring
- The Application Process
- Helpful Hints
- Questions?

Getting Started

It's Never Too Early To Plan For the Future!

- Explore extra curricular activities
- Study hard and get excellent grades
- Understand the classes that are offered/your interests
- Take on a challenge
- Create your Coalition Profile

Junior Year: Final Preparations

Continue Academic Excellence and Extracurricular Involvement

- Stay involved; become a leader
- Maintain a challenging academic course load
- Consider building your resume over the summer
- SAT/ACT
- College Search; visit campuses

Senior Year: Taking Action

Fall

- Determine where you will apply
- SAT or ACT exams
- Recommendation Letters
- Financial aid forms (FAFSA)
- Apply!
- Investigate merit scholarships

Spring

- Check on applications
- Financial aid forms (FAFSA)
- Check email
- Keep working hard
- May 1st decide one school of your choice

Components of the Application

Most colleges require several basic elements:

Application Form:

Online versus paper?

Application Fee:

Are there waivers or exemptions available?

High School Transcripts

Test Scores:

SAT or ACT?
Are subject tests required?

Letter(s) of Recommendation:

How many? From whom?

College Essay(s)

Activity Sheet or Resume

Additional Components

Some colleges may also require supplemental items:

Portfolio:

If applying to an art or architecture major

Short Answer Questions

Separate applications to special programs:

Honors programs, special residential groups, etc.

Separate applications for scholarship consideration:

Departmental Scholarships, alumni scholarships, etc.

* UMD does not require separate applications for special programs or merit-based scholarships, but you must apply by the November 1 priority deadline for consideration.

Application Deadlines

Understanding the types of deadlines:

Early Decision

- Binding contract

Early Action

- Non-binding, but still provides benefits of applying early

Priority

- Non-binding, but still provides benefits of applying early
- **UMD uses a priority deadline (November 1st)!**

Regular Decision

- Final deadline. No special benefits or extra consideration.

Rolling

- No fixed deadline, notifications come depending on school policies.

Meeting Application Deadlines

- Meeting an application deadline means submitting **ALL** of the required documents by the stated date—not just the application form
- Most institutions will accept documents as meeting the deadline as long as they are **postmarked** by the required date
- Submitting applications and documents **early** is the best way to be sure that they are meeting the deadline
- Although many early deadlines are not until November or December, most institutions begin accepting applications as early as August or September!

Types of Admission Applications

The Coalition
Application

New

The Common
Application

Individual
Institution
Applications

The Coalition Application



COALITION for ACCESS,
AFFORDABILITY, and SUCCESS



**VIRTUAL
LOCKER**



COLLABORATION



APPLICATION



The Coalition Application

Coalition Benefits for Students and Families

- A single platform to plan, build, organize, and refine a student's application to a variety of excellent institutions.
- Confidence that if admitted to any Coalition school, they will be offered a responsible financial aid package and have a strong likelihood of college success
- Coalition schools can be trusted to meet their commitment to access and outcomes.
- Responsive and adaptive application design allows students and families to engage through any computer, tablet, or mobile device

The Common Application

The “Common App” is an organization serving students and institutions by providing an application which can be submitting to over 400 institutions who participate in the Common Application membership

The Common App thus helps provide access to higher education by allowing students to apply to multiple institutions with one application form

Individual Institution Application

Some institutions do not participate in the Common Application, and have their own application form that must be submitted

Most institutions who have their own application offer both a paper and an online version, so students have a choice of submitting the form online or submitting a paper copy through the mail

Checking Your Application Status

**What is the next step after submitting your application?
Checking its status!**

- Checking on your application status is just as important as meeting an application deadline!
- Checking your status allows you to verify that all of your submitted materials have been received
- Most institutions offer several options to check on your application's status

Examples of UMD Applicants

What do you think were the decisions for these applicants?

● Student A

- 4.1
- 1500 New SAT
- President of Red Cross Club, National Math Honor Society, Salvation Army Club & Anime Club and involved in several other extracurricular activities

● Student B

- 3.9
- 29 (1380 New SAT)
- 3 sport athlete, Girl Scout, involved in several religious groups, SADD, Executive SGA representative, went on mission trips, mentor, many hours of community service

● Student C

- 4.19
- 1300 New SAT
- Participated in a food drive for two years, multiple honor roll awards and multiple attendance awards

Helpful Hints

- It's never too early to get started!
- Don't be afraid to ask for help!
- Leave time to get application documents.
- Check on your application.
- Send any important updates to the schools you applied.
- Check your email frequently.
- RELAX and BE PATIENT 😊

A large, stylized pink graphic on the left side of the slide, resembling a cluster of hexagonal cells or a honeycomb pattern.

Good luck with your
applications!

Questions?

Contact Info

The background of the slide is a photograph of a red brick building with white window frames and black shutters. In the foreground, there are lush green bushes with many bright pink roses. A semi-transparent red rounded rectangle is overlaid on the center of the image, containing contact information.

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