

# College Counseling at Wellington

## Senior Year

### September

- Continue to focus on your studies. Colleges often request first trimester grades and always require a final transcript. Your schedule and grades should continue to demonstrate your abilities and potential.
- Review and approve your transcript with Mrs. Nally.
- Schedule your individual meeting with college counseling to discuss your personal application process, materials, and timeline. Begin to finalize your college list. Pay specific attention to balance in terms of selectivity and cost.
- Update your college list in SCOIR to reflect schools to which you plan to apply.
- Take the ACT, if planned.
- Send standardized test scores to your colleges/universities via each test agency's website: SAT ([www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)) and ACT ([www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)) if "official" scores are required. Note that it may take several weeks for the scores to be sent and subsequently processed by a college. Plan accordingly.
- Attend LEAP Day sessions with College Counseling. Update and finalize your college applications and resumes. Outline supplemental essay prompts, if applicable. Organize application/scholarship deadlines, checklists and timelines.
- Meet with a member of the faculty edit team or college counseling to review and begin to finalize your essay drafts.
- Check in with the teachers from whom you requested letters of recommendation. Provide them with deadlines and any additional information requested. Formally add your teachers as recommenders via your application platforms.
- Meet with admissions representatives when they visit Wellington. Visit/revisit campuses as needed.
- Begin submitting college applications.

### October

- Be aware of Early Decision, Early Action and scholarship priority deadlines, many of which fall on November 1 or November 15. There are a few deadlines as early as October 15! Early applicants should also pay attention to fall financial aid deadlines.
- Take the ACT or SAT, if planned.
- Schedule admissions interviews whenever possible. Note you may be interviewed by an admissions officer, alum or even a current student.
- Research outside scholarship opportunities. Using the resources listed on Veracross, consider applying for outside scholarships.
- The CSS Profile is available beginning October 1 of senior year. Pay attention to college/university deadlines and requirements for need-based aid consideration.

## November

- Prepare for approaching scholarship deadlines. December 1 is another very common deadline for scholarship and admission applications.
- Wrap up any college visits you plan to make before applying. Remember that many schools will be closed to visitors during the week of Thanksgiving.

## December

- Say thanks! Your teachers have written thoughtful letters of recommendation on your behalf. A handwritten note of thanks speaks volumes. Remember to also share news of acceptances and college decisions with your teachers.
- Update college counseling. We also want to celebrate with you! Please remember to keep the office updated as you receive decisions from your colleges/universities and ultimately decide which school to attend.
- Prepare for and apply for Regular Decision and Early Decision 2 deadlines.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and any other financial aid forms required by your colleges/universities. The FAFSA is available December 1 of senior year. Pay attention to college/university deadlines and requirements for need-based aid consideration.

## January

- Mid-Year Reports are sent out to colleges/universities reflecting 1<sup>st</sup> trimester grades. See Mrs. Nally with any questions.
- Continue to research/apply for outside scholarships, as necessary.

## February/March/April

- If necessary, visit or re-visit any colleges to which you have been admitted.
- Consult with college counseling as a resource to help you sort through admission and scholarship offers.
- Keep your senior grades strong and ensure you are meeting all Wellington graduation requirements.

## May

- Make your final decision. May 1 is the National Candidate's Reply Date. All students must make their college commitments on or before this day, although occasionally a student may enroll after May 1 if offered admission from a waitlist.
- NCAA and NAIA student-athletes should finalize all requirements with the respective governing body, including amateurism certification.

## All Upper School Students

- Students from all grade levels can schedule individual appointments with college counselors throughout the year.
- College representatives from throughout the country and abroad visit Wellington during the fall, generally between September and November. Students are encouraged to meet with schools of interest and to explore a variety of institutions through these informational meetings.
- The LEAP Day Workshop Series takes place during the 2<sup>nd</sup> trimester. Topics include college research tools, important terms/definitions, specialized applications (i.e. college athletics and fine/performing arts), international colleges/universities, and affording college.
- Virtual and in-person college fairs, information sessions, and open houses sponsored by colleges and universities offer students the chance to learn more about specific institutions.
- Students are encouraged to visit as many of their campuses of interest as possible.

## Upper School Families

College Counseling Open House: Families of all grade levels are invited to meet the college counseling team during Upper School Parents' Night.

College Counseling Evening Program for Senior Families: Updates, admissions trends, Q&A, and an overview of programming to support seniors and families throughout the college application cycle.

Financial Aid for College Program: Each fall, college counseling invites a financial aid officer to present to families on the topic of affording college. Topics include the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, the CSS Profile, merit scholarships, grants, and loans.

Parent Teacher Conferences: The college counseling team will be available to meet with student and families from all grade levels during fall and spring conferences.

### Individual appointments

Families are welcome partners throughout the college search and application process. We encourage you to reach out at any time with any questions you might have.