

College Application Process And Timeline

Components of a College Application:

Academic record
(transcript)

Test scores (SAT,
ACT, etc.)

Letters of
Recommendation
(teacher, counselor,
etc.)

Personal Statement
(essays)

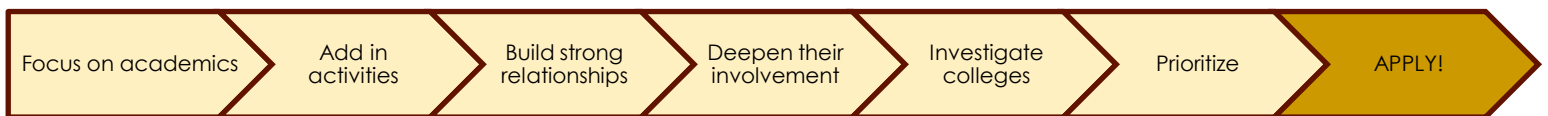
Extracurricular
Activities
(volunteerism,
sports, hobbies,
employment)

Supplements (videos,
portfolios, etc.)

Please note that not all colleges will require all components. Schools that use a “holistic” or “whole person” approach to admissions (Barrett, USC, Duke, etc.) generally suggest or require most of these components; data-driven schools (ASU, U of A, NAU, etc.) require fewer components and may only require a transcript and test scores.

Mrs. Witz is available to meet with students and parents at any time during this process. The meetings suggested below should be considered the **minimum** required. The application process should ideally be student-directed, but communication is essential to positive outcomes. When in doubt, please ask!

Successful college applicants will:



Complete by	
<input type="checkbox"/> Summer, Sophomore Year	Many colleges will ask what you've done for the two summers before your Senior Year.
<input type="checkbox"/> Junior Year	Complete College 101 with Mrs. Witz. This will include writing a résumé, completing personal interest surveys on Naviance, brainstorming essay topics, facilitating letters of recommendation and other important topics.
<input type="checkbox"/> February, Junior Year	Begin application to SERVICE ACADEMIES. If you are interested, or even think you might be interested, in attending a service academy, the process begins in Junior Year. Schedule an appointment with Mrs. Witz during fall semester.
<input type="checkbox"/> February-March, Junior Year	Applications for Fly-In programs and summer opportunities become available. Are you a female student interested in Engineering? The first person in your family to attend college? These and other factors might make you eligible for some great experiences at select colleges. If your family faces significant hardships, this is the time to talk about programs and scholarships available to help you apply to college.
<input type="checkbox"/> February-June	REGISTER (usually a month in advance) and TAKE the SAT and ACT for the first time. There are some schools that still require the Writing portion (most of the UC schools do), but most do not.

		<p>Some schools require SAT subject tests (most do not, but engineering programs, international schools, and highly-selective schools often do).</p> <p>You cannot take the SAT and subject tests on the same day.</p> <p>USE your free score reports! Even if you do not know exactly where you plan to apply, you can send your scores to the state schools.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Spring Break	<p>Visit some campuses – either in person or virtually. Get a feel for a small liberal arts college, a medium-sized university, and a large university. Start to determine what matters to you. Are you interested in research? Is a strong community of faith important? Do you want to live in a city? Determine what you want a college to offer you.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	April-May, Junior Year	<p>Complete your Teacher Recommendation requests. In order to do this, you will need to really consider what traits you possess as a learner and a person, and determine which teachers can communicate this most effectively.</p> <p>Schedule a meeting with Mrs. Witz to discuss your plans. Even if (perhaps, <i>especially if</i>) you are completely unsure of your plans, this is an important step! We will customize your timeline and go over personal recommendations.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Summer, Junior Year	<p>Complete your college counseling summer work! Visit colleges. Take notes as you have experiences this summer. Many schools will ask what you did with your last two summers – think about this as you plan your activities.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	August, Senior Year	<p>Apply to at least one in-state school (ASU, U of A, NAU). If you do not have US citizenship, or have dual-citizenship, now is the time to consult with Mrs. Witz about how to maximize your opportunities.</p> <p>Create a Common Application account and sync it to Naviance.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	August-October	<p>This will be the last chance to take or retake the SAT or ACT for regular decision applications. Have your scores sent through College Board!</p> <p>Meet with Mrs. Witz to go over essays, supplements, etc.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early November, Senior Year	<p>Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You will use your parents 2017 tax returns.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early to Mid-November	<p>Complete your Barrett application. If you plan to apply Early Action or Early Decision, you will need your letters of recommendation submitted at this time. You may also have to complete the CSS Profile (for financial aid) and any institutional forms for financial aid. You must send your scores to reach the school(s) by the deadline.</p> <p>Start looking at school-specific and outside scholarships.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	December	<p>Early action and early decision results come in.</p> <p>Be respectful of your peers and take care of yourself. Your college application outcomes are NOT a referendum on you as a person. Do not check your results during the school day or with peers. Use judgement when posting to social media. You are entitled to be ecstatic about your results, and also to be saddened by them, but remember that your peers are on their own journeys. Be sensitive and compassionate. Do not make disparaging remarks about ANY school.</p> <p>Update Naviance, and think about how the decisions impact your application plan.</p> <p>Many regular decision applications are due. Don't wait until the last minute to submit!</p> <p>Write letters to your recommenders expressing your gratitude for their advocacy on your behalf.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Early January	<p>All applications are due by this time, with the exception of schools with rolling admissions. Your midyear transcript will be sent. Congratulate yourself on a job well-done, and work on finishing the year impressively! Continue to investigate scholarship opportunities.</p> <p>Add any supplementary material, as appropriate.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	March-April	<p>Decisions come in. Evaluate your opportunities. Update Naviance.</p>
<input type="checkbox"/>	May 1st	<p>Decision Day! It's time to celebrate! Whatever you've chosen, and wherever you're headed, know that your parents, your teachers, and the entire community are proud of your accomplishments and excited about the positive impacts, both large and small, that you will have on the world around you.</p>