

HIFE CPP REQUIREMENTS:

- ◆ Must have a minimum GPA of 2.5
- ◆ Must seek to attend an accredited institution
- ◆ Must be willing to complete the assigned homework provided by the HIFE Coach

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Message From The Dean - Bob Fulcomer



COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

Students are working on college applications. Some are applying now for early admissions or decisions. Some will be waiting for regular admissions. Either way, students are busy completing them, and there are a few things they need to remember:

Students must know the deadlines. The deadlines are set and will NOT be adjusted for any student for any reason. Students should NOT try to turn everything in at the last minute. They need to stay on top of the process and have plenty of time so they can double-check everything. Colleges have different deadlines. At University of California colleges, the application is available August 1st. The submission period for fall 2016 is November 1 - 30. If a student waits until January to apply, it will be too late. All

students need to check and know the deadlines for the schools they are applying to.

Completing the application can be a tedious task. While much emphasis is put on college essays, it is just as critical for students to concentrate and do an excellent job on the application. It needs to be concise and complete. Colleges look at everything when admitting students.

There are at least three supplemental items usually requested. One is the student resume. It needs to be well written, well formatted and really highlight what the student has accomplished, participated in, etc. The students will need recommendation letters. These letters need to be requested early from those writing them. If a student requests a recommendation

letter from a teacher, there is a good chance the teacher has also been asked to write other student's letters. They need to be given plenty of time to write the letters. Finally, students will need to send official transcripts. The transcripts MUST be official. They must be sent directly from the high school to the college. They cannot be late. The student NEEDS to verify the transcripts and all other documents have been submitted prior to the deadline.

Students must have their SAT or ACT scores sent directly to the school. When taking either exam, students can specify which schools they want their scores sent to. The scores will automatically be sent to those schools. If additional schools need to be sent the scores, the student can request it. Score reports will not be accepted by a college directly from the student.

It seems like a lot. That is why it is so critical for students to start early.

College Application Deadlines: Make Sure You Meet Them



College application deadlines are an important part of applying for college. Meeting deadlines is often essential to being considered for colleges at all. While some schools will review applications sent after the deadline, they'll only accept these students in exceptional circumstances or if their enrollment hasn't quite filled up for the year.

In most cases, though, you'll get a better offer from a college if you meet its college application deadlines. You'll be first in line to receive offers for financial aid and special scholarships based on need or academic achievement. Meeting college application deadlines also allows you to hear back earlier from the schools you have in mind, so you have more time to review the offers, weigh the pros and cons of each school, and make your final choice without feeling pressured.

Meeting college application deadlines starts early in your senior year. Most deadlines are between the first of the year and the middle of February, and you'll want to try to meet these dates, since they're often, again, tied to financial aid. Some colleges offer rolling admissions if you

want to go for a spring semester instead of a fall semester, for example, but most traditional schools prefer that you come in and get started the fall semester after your senior year.

Make A List Well Before a Deadline

The first thing to do when you're wondering about college application deadlines is to narrow your list of schools down. It should include schools that you may not be able to get into, schools that you'll definitely get into, and some that you're pretty sure you'll get into. That way, you'll have a wide range of options to choose from, and you'll be able to choose the school where you'll fit in best. Of course, you should always make sure the schools on your list offer the program or programs you're thinking about majoring in so that you don't have to transfer down the road!

Check the college's websites and make a list for each of the application deadlines as well as all the information needed in your application packet. You might also want to write down how much the application fee is, just so you'll be aware. Check if you need letters of recommendation, a written personal

statement or essay, a paper or electronic application, or a transcript. Most applications will include a combination of these things.

Talking to the Right People About Your College Application

One thing about college application deadlines is that they are not like term papers. You can't leave them until the last minute because they depend on more than just you. You'll need to talk to your high school office or guidance counselor, for instance, to get copies of your transcript to send out to schools. You'll have to talk to teachers and coaches about writing you letters of recommendation, and it's rude to give them less than three or four weeks' notice on these.

As you're looking at application materials and deadlines, make a list of people you need to talk to for your application. If your high school has a writing center or if your English teacher is up for the task, you might even want to look at scheduling an appointment to go over your personal statements. They can be really tricky to write on your own!

College Application Deadlines: Make Sure You Meet Them (cont.)

Put the College Application Deadline on a Calendar

The best thing you can do to keep track of college application deadlines and similar information for school is to put it on a master calendar. Having it in a monthly view will help you take care of tasks well ahead of time. Here are some tips for what to put on your calendar:

- Check if the college application deadlines are “postmarked by” dates or hard dates for your materials to be in. If they’re “postmarked by,” write them on your calendar one or two days early – just to be safe. If it’s a hard deadline where your application materials need to be in for sure, give yourself at least a week to

get things in the mail and to the college admissions office.

- Give your guidance counselor and other letter-of-reference writers at least a month’s notice, so put a date for speaking with them on the calendar, as well. (Hint: It’s easier for them to write a letter of reference if you provide them with information about the school and program you’re applying to as well as a brief personal resume reminding them of your accomplishments in high school!)
- Add in deadlines for taking the SAT or ACT. Remember, your scores need to be in by the deadline, so you’ll want to

take them early – preferably in the first month or two of school. Putting these things on your calendar can help you meet college application deadlines with ease!

Source: stateuniversity.com



Top Ten Tips for Writing a College Essay

1. Start early. The more time you have, the less stress you'll have. You'll have plenty of time to give the essay your best effort. □

2. Be yourself. Take a moment to think about what interests you, what you love to talk about, what makes you sit up and take notice if it's mentioned in class or on TV. Then write about it. One of the biggest mistakes students make is writing what they think others want to hear, rather than about an issue, event, or person that really had signifi-

cance for them.

3. Be honest. College admission officers have read hundreds, even thousands of essays. They are masters at discovering any form of plagiarism. Adapting an email story, buying an essay from some Internet site, getting someone else to write your essay, admission people have seen it all. Don't risk your college career by taking the easy way out.

4. Take a risk. On the other hand, some risks can pay off.

Imagine an admission officer up late, reading the fiftieth essay of the day, yours. "The danger lies not in writing bad essays but in writing common essays, the one that admission officers are going to read dozens of," says an associate director at a Pennsylvania high school. "My advice? Ask your friends what they are writing, and then don't write about that!"

5. Keep in focus. This is your chance to tell admission officers exactly why they should admit you. Unfortunately, some

Top Ten Tips for Writing a College Essay (cont.)

students try to list every single reason, their stellar academic record, their athletic prowess, their community service, all in a page or two. When that happens, the essay looks like a grocery list. If you go over 700 words, you are straining their patience, which no one should want to do. Use the essay in a creative way to help the admission officers get to know you as a person.

6. Write and rewrite. Don't try to write a masterpiece on your first try. It's not possible, and all that pressure is likely to give you writer's block. For your first draft, write anything that comes to mind about your topic.

Don't worry too much about grammar or spelling. Just get it down on paper (or computer screen). Then let it "rest" for a few hours or a few days. When you come back to the draft, look for ways to make it more focused and better written.

7. Get a second opinion. When you've rewritten the essay to your satisfaction, find someone who can give you advice on how to make it even better.

8. Proofread. Finally, you're ready to send your essay. Not so fast! Read it over one more time, looking for those little errors that can creep in as

you write or edit. If you're using a computer, also run a spell check.

9. Be accurate. Applying online may feel like you're sending email, but you're not. An Oregon director of admission warns against using informal email language, incorrect capitalization or abbreviations such as BTW or "thanx," which are not appropriate to a formal document.

10. Don't expect too much from an essay. The application essay is important, but it's not the only thing that is considered.

Source: NACACNet

Coach's Corner

Essays

Essays are a large part of the lives of our high school seniors right now. They are writing essays for scholarships and for college applications. Usually the colleges require more than one essay. To make things even more challenging, each college has their own essay requests and requirements. That is why when you see a high school senior, they are looking stressed or are deep in thought.

How can you help with essays? I asked our essay reviewers what they want our students to do. First, they ask the students to try reading the essays out loud. It makes it easier to catch something if it is not flowing properly or does not sound right. Second, when there is a word limit, the student should go on and just write the paper. Once it is written, it can be trimmed down to meet the requirements. It is much easier to shorten a good essay than it is to bolster a weak one. Finally, it

is important for the student to be invested in their subject material rather than just be fulfilling a requirement. The quality of the essay is much higher.

If you see a senior, and you know they are writing essays, share the tips and let them know they are doing a good job. They probably need to hear it.