

Senior Year Script

Thank you Ms. Smithgall - My name is Atiya Rehman and I am going to talk a bit about some things to know as rising seniors.

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While you are doing college research and planning in the coming weeks and months, there are some important acronyms and procedures that you will need to make sure you are aware of - especially the types of application deadlines that you will encounter.

An Early Action application to an institution of preference will receive a response earlier than a regular decision deadline. An early action applicant is *not committed* to enroll at that particular institution if they are accepted. Early Action deadlines are just regular deadlines earlier on in the school year and these deadlines can start as early as Oct. 15th.

The most common early action deadlines are usually November 1st, November 15th, and/or December 1st. But, each college may have slightly different dates and deadlines. This is where it is very important to check college websites and keep track of all deadlines.

Early Action differs from Early Decision. Early Decision is a binding application process in which a commitment is made by the student to the institution that, if admitted, the student will enroll. Only a student who can make a deliberate and well-reasoned first choice decision should apply under an Early Decision plan because the institution will require a nonrefundable deposit well before May.

Early Decision II deadlines have a later deadline and notification date. The commitment to apply to Early Decision and/or Early Decision II should be made with the understanding that this is a college you are in love with and are able and willing to commit to financially.

Regular Decision is a general application pool with deadlines in and around January. Applicants are notified by April 1st.

Rolling Admissions is a general application pool with a flexible and quick turnaround on decisions as long as all requirements are submitted. There are no fixed deadlines. These colleges will accept applications until their class spots are filled.

Applying to college will feel like having an 8th class on top of your already demanding course schedule, after school activities, jobs, and homework! Juniors, our biggest piece of advice is to keep your people, including your parents, counselors, and teachers in the loop. We are here to support you through this process. This includes checking your email, keeping up with your deadlines, notifying your counselor about your requirements and upcoming deadlines especially with those early deadlines I mentioned earlier.

Time management is key here. Counselor and teacher document deadlines will be several weeks earlier than your application deadline to give us time to write your letter of recommendation and prepare your supporting documents. Your application does not need to be complete when requesting supporting documents.

Seniors and families are strongly encouraged to come to Senior Night in the Fall to learn more details about the college application process and the nitty gritty details about the procedures to apply to college.

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Another very important piece of the application process is financial aid. All students should submit a FAFSA or Free Application for Federal Student Aid. The FAFSA application generally opens October 1st for students attending college for the following fall. The application will use prior year tax returns. For example, rising seniors will be using 2023 tax information for the 2025-2026 FAFSA. Some colleges will also require a submitted CSS profile for financial aid purposes.

Tools that could be helpful in the process are FAFSA Forecaster which can be found on FAFSA and Net Price Calculators made available on individual college websites. Local Scholarship information is sent out by the counseling department and made available on Naviance. Students

should also eventually join a national scholarship search engine like fastweb or going merry. There are a plethora of scholarships available and Students are encouraged to do their own research as well. Though some scholarships will come available in the coming months, Scholarship season really begins in January of senior year.

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During Senior year, there are also a couple opportunities for students to explore work-place internships with the local Arlington community. One of those is Urban Alliance. Students who are able to have two or more GenFlexes in the afternoons can apply to Urban Alliance. This is a full year opportunity to gain real-world experience through a paid internship with a local organization that they are interested in.

Seniors are also expected to participate in Senior Experience during the last three weeks of their senior year. Students must be eligible to graduate and have passed all of their classes. Seniors are offered the opportunity to embark on an exciting and unique learning experience of their choosing to expand their interests and their abilities in a professional setting outside of W-L.

Now we are going to hear from some of our amazing class of 2023 seniors who went through the application process and have some advice for rising seniors.

And then we will turn it over to Ms. Wanzer who will tell us about some other options for life after high school.