

Welcome to your Senior Year, Class of 2023! You are officially an Oxford Area High School Senior! As you enjoy your time off from school, continue to think about your future post high school. Below is a list of things you should be doing over the summer to prepare yourself for applying to post high school institutions. If you need anything over the summer break, you may email us. Please know, however, we have limited summer hours and will get back to you as soon as possible. The building principals and school counseling secretary, Mrs. Auch, will be in if you need immediate assistance or you can send an email to guidance-hs@oxfordasd.org. Enjoy every moment of this summer!

Sincerely, *The OAHS Guidance Department: Lock, Williams, Cintora, Humphreys, & Rappold*

- **APPLICATION TYPES:** Review the *Common Application* and *Coalition for College* websites, what is needed to complete these applications, and if your post high school institution is a Common App or Coalition school (www.commonapp.org) (www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org). If your post high school is not a common application school, you will apply right on the institution's website.
- **CAMPUS VISITS:** Start visiting colleges or universities that interest you. Research expectations from those colleges (i.e., do they have a language requirement, do they want SAT Subject test, what classes do they expect to see on your transcript, etc.). You can also reach out to the admissions department and attend virtual college events or a scheduled video chat.
- **DEADLINES:** Be aware of all admission deadlines!
- **DIVISION SPORTS:** Prospective Student Athletes, read the NCAA Guide for the College-Bound Athlete. Those athletes interested in pursuing Division I or Division II university sports should register with the Clearinghouse by visiting their site at www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- **EARLY ACTION OR EARLY DECISION:** Do you plan on doing Early Action or Early Decision? Please note that early decision is **BINDING!** You withdraw any other applications if you choose early decision. With early action you receive an admissions decision no later than February. With early action, you do not have to commit upon receipt. Do your research on both options before applying!
- **ESSAYS:** Draft application essays. Each prompt may be different, verify through the college/university website what essays they are asking for.
- **FINAL LIST:** Finalize your list of 6-10 post high school institutions.
- **FINANCIAL AID:** It is important to ask the question "How am I going to pay for my postsecondary education". There is assistance available from the federal government, state government, scholarships, and even the higher education institutions themselves. For more information, go to PHEAA.org, Mysmartborrowing.org, or <https://studentaid.gov>.
- **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION:** If you have not done so already, ask 1-3 people for letters of recommendation. You can use the resume builder on Naviance to ask for a formal letter.
- **NAVIANCE:** Sign on to Naviance using your PowerSchool username and password. Explore the site and get familiar with its features. You will need this site when applying to post high school institutions: <https://student.naviance.com/oxfordahs>. Naviance will be you and your school counselor's connection to important documents post high schools need to complete applications.
- **TEST SCORES:** Register to take the ACT or SAT. You can register over the summer for the August 27, 2022 SAT (<https://www.collegeboard.org>). Also, are you considering a college that requires a subject test SAT? Check out the Collegeboard website for more information on subject tests! You can also register now for the July 16th ACT (<http://www.actstudent.org>). The deadline to register is June 17th. Some schools are test optional. If you choose to **not submit** scores, you will have to apply test optional. If you believe an SAT or ACT score would complement your application, submit the scores. With many institutions, if you go test optional, additional essays will be required to complete your application.
- **TRANSCRIPTS:** Your transcript is an academic record listing classes taken, grade received, grade point average, and class rank. Schools use your transcript to determine admissions. If you need a transcript prior to school starting in August, fill out a transcript release (found on the high school guidance website) and get it to Mrs. Auch in the school counseling office.
- **WORK EXPERIENCE:** Consider a summer job or volunteer experience. Any outside of school activities can be used when applying to schools and/or scholarships.