



Makayla's Key College Concepts Checklist

<p><u>Make Your College List</u></p>	<p>Compile a rough draft of 15-20 colleges you may want to apply to right now. Make sure it is a mix of safety, target, and reach schools. Your final college list which should have between 8-12 schools on it.</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="586 533 1435 1043"> <thead> <tr> <th>Type of School</th> <th>What this means</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A safety school</td> <td>The qualifications for you to get in are below your GPA and test scores (ex. requires a 3.0 GPA and 19 ACT to get in and you have a 3.7 GPA and a 26 ACT)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A target school</td> <td>The qualifications for you to get in exactly meet your GPA and test scores (ex. requires a 3.5 GPA and a 25 ACT to get in and you have a 3.55 GPA and 26 ACT)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>A reach school</td> <td>The qualifications for you to get in is above your GPA and tests scores (ex. requires a 4.0 GPA and a 30 ACT and you have a 3.75 GPA and a 28 ACT)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Research the schools including the programs they offer, major scholarships, tour schedules, etc. so when you begin Common App (OPENS AUG. 1), you can begin to fill out applications. After compiling your college list, make sure you have documentation of when applications open, when they close, what is required to apply, fees needed to submit your application, whether or not your school covers application costs, etc.</p>	Type of School	What this means	A safety school	The qualifications for you to get in are below your GPA and test scores (ex. requires a 3.0 GPA and 19 ACT to get in and you have a 3.7 GPA and a 26 ACT)	A target school	The qualifications for you to get in exactly meet your GPA and test scores (ex. requires a 3.5 GPA and a 25 ACT to get in and you have a 3.55 GPA and 26 ACT)	A reach school	The qualifications for you to get in is above your GPA and tests scores (ex. requires a 4.0 GPA and a 30 ACT and you have a 3.75 GPA and a 28 ACT)
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<p><u>Write Your Essays</u></p>	<p>Check out the Common App essay prompts for 2020-2021 https://www.commonapp.org/apply/essay-prompts and begin working on essay drafts ASAP! Tips for starting your essay: dig deep -- think about stories that show your strength. Ask several people to read over your essays and keep at it until it feels just right!</p>								
<p><u>Build Your Resume</u></p>	<p>Compile a resume with GPA, school, class rank, SAT/ACT score, extracurricular activities, honors and awards, and service done so colleges and scholarships can get a sense of who you are. Only put GPA, class rank, and scores if they are high. Do not sell yourself short if those are not your best qualities. Try to limit it to one page. You can find different formats online and in Microsoft Word.</p>								

<p><u>Understand Application Jargon</u></p>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td data-bbox="573 247 781 625"> <p>Early Decision (ED)</p> </td> <td data-bbox="781 247 1468 625"> <p>This is BINDING meaning if you apply and get in you <u>have</u> to go to school there unless they do not give you enough financial aid.</p> <p>You get your decision early with this option but unless you are 100% sure you want to go to this school, I do not recommend applying ED</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="573 625 781 926"> <p>Early Action (EA)-I chose this option for most of my apps</p> </td> <td data-bbox="781 625 1468 926"> <p>In my personal opinion, this is the best option because you get your decision early and it is NOT binding, meaning you can make your decision from lots of options</p> <p>Most of these apps are due on or before Nov. 1</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="573 926 781 1226"> <p>Regular Decision (RD)-I only chose this option if they didn't have EA</p> </td> <td data-bbox="781 926 1468 1226"> <p>The school sets a dates between which it will accept application. Most of the due dates are between Nov-March (they vary for each school)</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="573 1226 781 1465"> <p>Rolling Admissions</p> </td> <td data-bbox="781 1226 1468 1465"> <p>These colleges will look over applications as they come in and give you a decision usually within 3-4 weeks. Most of these schools do not have an official "due date" for your application.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>Early Decision (ED)</p>	<p>This is BINDING meaning if you apply and get in you <u>have</u> to go to school there unless they do not give you enough financial aid.</p> <p>You get your decision early with this option but unless you are 100% sure you want to go to this school, I do not recommend applying ED</p>	<p>Early Action (EA)-I chose this option for most of my apps</p>	<p>In my personal opinion, this is the best option because you get your decision early and it is NOT binding, meaning you can make your decision from lots of options</p> <p>Most of these apps are due on or before Nov. 1</p>	<p>Regular Decision (RD)-I only chose this option if they didn't have EA</p>	<p>The school sets a dates between which it will accept application. Most of the due dates are between Nov-March (they vary for each school)</p>	<p>Rolling Admissions</p>	<p>These colleges will look over applications as they come in and give you a decision usually within 3-4 weeks. Most of these schools do not have an official "due date" for your application.</p>
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<p><u>Ask for References and Recommendations</u></p>	<p>You will need recommendations for most applications. Make a list of 4-5 dependable teachers/counselors you can trust giving you a FAVORABLE (key word) recommendation. Contact your them as soon as you start your applications, ideally 3-4 weeks before it is due. Also, give them a resume with your accomplishments so they don't have to ask you while writing.</p>								
<p><u>Ask for Opinions</u></p>	<p>When you determine what your top schools are, reach out to students who have attended those schools so you can get a</p>								

	<p>personal opinion of campus, living on campus, social life, academics, etc. You can ask your counselor for recommendations of students they may know, but you can also call the admissions office and they will often connect you with someone who is from your town who attends there.</p>
<p><u>Look for Scholarships</u></p>	<p>SCHOLARSHIPS!!!! APPLY! APPLY! APPLY! Apply early and stay on top of them. There are local, regional, national, institutional, and federal scholarships. Look at nationwide AND school specific scholarships. Don't stop looking! Even if you don't qualify for need-based, you could still qualify for merit-based award? Do you have a special talent? Are you a member of a club or a church? Go through your resume ; it can lead you to scholarship opportunities.</p> <p><u>Big Scholarships to Consider</u></p> <p>-Ron Brown, Jack Kent Cooke College Scholarship, Gates Scholarship, Coke-Cola Scholarship are some of the big national scholarships</p> <p>-Morehead-Cain (UNC), Parks Scholarship (NC State), Robertson (Duke/UNC), Levine (UNCC), Jefferson Scholarship (UVA) are some of the big scholarships at universities</p> <p>*Most of these scholarships are due before November 1,st so you have to be on it as soon as the application opens</p>
<p><u>Mark Your Calendar for Free College Application Week!</u></p>	<p>The College Foundation of North Carolina hosts Free College Application Week where most public universities in NC and all community college applications are free. This year it is October 19-23. Apply to as many schools you can during this time, especially if you don't get fee waivers! College applications can be costly! For example, UNC is \$85, UNC-Charlotte is \$75, NC State is \$85, North Carolina A&T is \$60. If you apply to those schools alone and no more, you have spent \$305!</p>
<p><u>Prepare for Good News and Disappointments</u></p>	<p>You got in? Hooray! Take time to celebrate your accomplishments because you worked hard for this!</p> <p>Waitlisted or Denied? You are not alone. Lots of students get waitlist and denial letters. It's ok and you will still get to where you need to go. On the waitlist? Contact the admissions office and see</p>

	what the process is on appealing your admission decision if you really are interested in this school.
<u>Decision Time</u>	By April, you should have a top 3 or top 2 list of schools you want to attend. Make sure you are considering location, costs, major choices, size, how far away from home, extracurricular activities, etc. Most schools set a May 1 deadline to accept or deny their offer of admission.