

## **Apply Now, Not Later**

### **Ten Tips for Winning College Scholarships**

Whether you're applying for college, tech schools or trade programs, it's always better to get your submissions in as early as possible.

There are many benefits to turning in your application in advance of the actual deadline.

We recommend students submit their applications at least three weeks before the admissions deadline.

Here are some reasons why:

**1. Peak performance.** Stress kills productivity. Rushing to get the application done as fast as you can increases your chances of making mistakes. When you're not rushed, you have time to think things through, make better choices and do your best work.

**2. Holidays.** January 1 is the most common Regular Decision deadline. But, what you may not know is that almost every U.S. high school closes for Thanksgiving and the winter holidays, and many people use up vacation days in December. So, if you need something from your high school counselor or teacher, you may not be able to get it. Additionally, many colleges close for the holidays, so if you have a question, someone may not be there to answer it either.

**3. Disasters.** Hurricanes, floods, fires, earthquakes, and other disasters have all occurred close to – and during – deadlines. Preparations for these events, as well as the after-effects, may prevent you from submitting. Some schools may extend the deadlines, but several of them stick to the original plan.

**4. Technological trouble.** Blackouts happen. The Internet can go down. Websites have technical glitches. The Common App website crashed in 2013 and 2017. Application websites are also known to be very slow when there are large spikes in activity; unsurprising to many, these spikes usually occur around deadlines.

**5. College bias.** Many colleges document the time and date when students submit their applications. *If a student submits their application on the last day, the admission committee may conclude that a student is not as organized or as interested as a student who applied early.*

**6. Housing and other perks.** Some colleges assign housing for new freshmen on a *first-come, first-serve basis*. Students may apply for campus housing right after they submit their application. *The earlier a student applies, the greater chance they have for getting their preferred dorm building and room type.*

**7. Double review.** Students benefit from double reviews on their applications if they submit them to their college advisor on or before the advisor's deadline. *A double review is the best way to avoid mistakes.*

**8. More stress.** Save yourself, your parents, and your college advisor the stress! Getting all of your applications in early ensures you did your best work, and you will feel so amazingly relieved!

**9. Keep up good grades.** High school students who maintain an above average get selective treatment from recruiters. You will benefit from having good grades commiserating with your college electives (career choices).

**10. Tests.** Recent NCAA rulings have eliminated SAT, ACT and other test results, but schools have the last word if they will lower their acceptance standards. It's best to be prepared.

## **Additional Assistance**

Remember: It pays to get your application done in time and done well!

**Need Help?** (The Free **Comprehensive Preparation Assistance Program** is the educational component of **BCSEF** which assist students and families with resources to create a successful path to reach their full potential and goals. We help Community-based organizations with afterschool programs in underserved communities. Dr. Charley Flint, PhD is the Education Director with over forty years of experience. Reach out to us at [www.bcsportsfoundation.com](http://www.bcsportsfoundation.com), or contact Dr. Flint at 908.370.9878, Edd J. Hayes, Executive Director at 757.272.4472.)