



The College Application Summer Camp Syllabus

Pre-session/Orientation - for parents and students:

An Overview of The College Admissions and Application Process

- Setting Expectations: Roles and Responsibilities
- Meeting Important Deadlines: Key dates and submission deadlines
- Learning the 'To-do's': The components of a college application
- Test optional Admissions: When to do it
- Creating The Optimal College List and Admissions Strategy
- Identifying Your "True Cost" For College

Homework: Read Bauld book and finish; create a Common/Coalition App account; submit roles/responsibilities; submit *Getting to Know U*

Note that the Orientation is for parents and students; the remaining classes are for the student. All classes will be recorded and posted in the members' area of the Your College Concierge website, but live attendance is highly encouraged.

Lesson 1: Writing Your Personal Essay

- Section-by-section Overview of The Common Application
- How To Enter Schools
- Set Up Your Common Application Profile
- Review of Essay Prompts, Themes and Recommended Guidelines
- Do's and Don'ts of essay writing
- The Good, The Bad & The Ugly: Review of Sample Essays and Why they Worked (Or Didn't)
- Writing LAB: Free Writing Exercise

Homework : Essay 1st Draft





Lesson 2: **Acting Like An Applicant**

- Simple AND effective ways to demonstrate interest
- Interactive Completion of Common App Profile Section
- Writing LAB: Review Your Essay First Drafts – Hot Seat!

Homework : Complete Activities List + Description Worksheet; continue revising essay

Lesson 3: **Describing Who You Are and What You Do**

- Interactive completion of Common Application Activities section (including listing awards/ honors and creating conforming descriptions)
- Interactive completion of an Application Resume
- Writing LAB: review of your current essay drafts – Hot Seat!
- Activities List + Description Worksheet
- Continue revising essay

Homework (due by lesson 4): Final 1st essay; supplemental essay draft; final resume; Common App complete

Lesson 4: **Finalizing & Submitting Your Completed Common Application**

- Requesting Your Transcripts vs. Self Reporting Your Grades (Completing the SSAR)
- Requesting Your Test Scores
- Requesting Recommendations (with Naviance/SCOIR and without)
- Avoiding Common Common App Pitfalls & Landmines
 - What/when to self-report information (e.g., deciding whether to self-report test scores)
- Essay Hot Seat

Lesson 5: **Special Circumstances**

- How to handle special circumstances
- Taking Care To Take The Next Steps
 - (Virtual) Campus Visits and Information Sessions
 - (Virtual) Interviews + Interview Tips
 - Summer Planning
- Writing LAB: Resume and Essay Reviews & Final HOT SEAT

Students will have access to “Office Hours” during the course for one-on-one meetings.

