

# ADVICE TO JUNIORS ON BEGINNING THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS



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# SERVICES PROVIDED BY THE OFFICE OF COLLEGE PLACEMENT

- Counseling for students and parents regarding the college application process
- Reference materials and catalogs for most colleges and universities
- Evening event in October for parents of juniors and seniors on the college application process

- Evening event in November for parents of juniors and seniors on financial aid
- Lunch with the College Counselor
- Visits from college representatives
- Official and unofficial transcripts

- Central Catholic Guidance Department website:
  - Important links regarding college applications and financial aid
  - Calendar of important dates
  - Central Catholic forms for teacher recommendations and transcript requests
  - Calendar of college rep visits to Central Catholic
  - Calls to college admissions offices in support of applications

# The Office of College Placement is NOT

- For non-college counseling issues, either personal or academic
- Information about PSAT, SAT or SAT prep
- Academic issues involving teachers or grades
- Course schedule for senior year

# Most Important Things To Do Between Now and September

- Visit colleges
- Parents and teachers together meet with the Director of College Placement
- Do well in studies this semester and final exams in June for GPA and class rank

- Enroll in the most challenging courses you can for senior year
- Take the SAT and or the ACT at least twice

# **CHOOSING SCHOOLS IN THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS**

# How many schools should I apply to?

**Minimum 3 schools:**

**1 Reach   1 Reachable   1 Safe**

**Average number of applications:**

**1-2 Reach                  2-3 Reachable**

**5-8 schools:**

**2 or more Safe**

**Maximum number of applications: 9-12 schools:**

**3-4 Reach                  3-4 Reachable                  3-4 Safe**

**Not unheard of:                  12-20 schools**

# Why so many applications?



- **DEMOGRAPHICS**
- **THE COMMON APPLICATION**
- **COLLEGE-EDUCATED PARENTS WHO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE PROCESS**
- **INCREASED COMPETITION CAUSING PANIC**

# COMPONENTS OF THE ACADEMIC RECORD:

- GPA
- Class rank
- Courses taken (college prep, Honors, AP, etc.)
- SAT/ACT

### 1. REACH SCHOOLS:

Academic record at or above range for accepted students

OR “Most competitive” school

OR More competitive than your “reachable” schools

### 2. REACHABLE SCHOOLS:

Academic record at or above range for accepted students

AND More competitive than your “safe” schools

### 3. SAFE SCHOOLS:

Academic record at or above range for accepted students

AND appropriate competition for your academic record

**OTHER FACTORS WHICH CAN HELP AN  
APPLICATION  
OVER THE “THRESHOLD”**

- **Central Catholic is known to the Admissions Office**
- **Catholic college or university**
- **Legacy**
- **“First Generation” applicant**
- **Athletics**
- **Musical or other artistic talent**
- **Extracurriculars**
- **Service or volunteer work**
- **The Application Essay**
- **Letters of Recommendation**
- **Personal Interview**
- **Resume**
- **Foreign language**
- **International experience**



# ADMISSION PROCESSES

- Regular Decision: Students submit an application by a specified date and receive a decision in a clearly stated period time. Usually, the regular decision deadline is in January or February, notifications of acceptance or denial or wait-list are sent in April, with final decision whether to enroll due in May.
- Rolling Admission: The college or university reviews applications as they are submitted and render admission decisions throughout the admission cycle. When the freshman class is full, they wait list any remaining accepted students.

- Early Decision: The applications are due early (usually in November). Students apply to only one school Early Decision. If the student is admitted based upon an Early Decision application, he is obligated to attend that school. This is a binding obligation.
- Early Action: The applications are due early (like Early Decision). However, students may apply to as many schools Early Action as they want. There is no obligation to attend any of them if accepted.

**“THE COLLEGE FINANCIAL AID PROCESS”**

**IN NOVEMBER - DATE TBA**