

Hi Seniors,

Yes, it's official. You are most definitely seniors! I hope you've been enjoying your summer, catching up on some much needed rest and relaxation. And maybe working on your college application a little bit too 😊.

Apologies in advance: This is a lot of information, but it's extremely important that you read it in its entirety! It will also be posted to the Class of 2026 Google Classroom and GoogleSite. [Your parents can read it on GoogleSite](#), so please share it with them.

I can't believe we're halfway through July, where did the time go? With August coming closer, I'm writing to help prepare you for the college process, starting with the application and moving on to a general timeline for the year. It's a very deadline-driven process, and the internal deadlines are just as important as the colleges' own deadlines, so please get in the habit of checking and responding to email regularly. That's the main way I'll be reaching out, but it's also how colleges will communicate as well and you don't miss something important. *Note: If you feel like you're missing emails from colleges, be sure to check your VIPRE emails.*

Applications: Please do not submit any applications without meeting with me first! *This is extremely important because there are steps in the process that need completed before you hit submit the first time, plus, we want to check over your applications before you send them in.*

On August 1, 2025, the Common Application goes "live" online. Each of you should already have your Common App account (CA from now on) created. If you do not, you can start by going to commonapp.org, click on Create an Account, and follow the steps. Be sure to save your CA password so you can always find it!

Begin by working to complete the CA. By the time school starts, you should aim to have everything under the "Common App" tab finished except the essay. *Below are some tips, section by section, that will help you complete the application.* It shouldn't take you more than two hours (again, minus the essay). You can save your work and return to it later. To save it, be sure to click CONTINUE at the end of each page! You should enter the colleges that are of interest to you in the "My Colleges" tab when you start, as some colleges will have additional questions or requirements. Only colleges that accept the CA will be in My Colleges.

PROFILE: This section should be mostly self-explanatory. All of your responses should be about YOU.

- Fee Waiver question: leave it blank until you have talked with Ms. O

FAMILY: Responses here will be about your family - mainly your parents/guardians. You might not know all the answers here, though, so be prepared to ask your family for their help.

EDUCATION:

- Beaumont's CEEB code is 361440
- Date of entry: August 2022 (unless you transferred in)
- Graduation: May 2026
- Colleges and Universities attended: leave this blank until you talk with Ms. O
- Grades:
 - Class size is 65
 - Grading scale is 4
 - GPA – you will find yours in Scoir (View your profile and then scroll to the Academic Overview section)
 - GPA is weighted
- Current or most recent year courses: list all of your **SENIOR** year courses except for Academic Support, ILT, and PE
 - Choose Semester for the course scheduling system, even though some of your classes are year-long. Further down, under Course Schedule, you will have the option to choose Full Year, Semester 1, or Semester 2.
 - If the class is not AP, IB, or Honors, select College Prep for level.
- Community-Based Programs: check "0"
- Future Plans: This is generally *not* binding. If you enter "English" you will not be forced to be an English major! It's an indication of possible interest. There may be some exceptions to this, and you will discuss that with Ms. O.

TESTING: Don't enter any test scores until you have met with Ms. O.

ACTIVITIES: This section can be frustrating. There is a limit of 10 and you don't have very much space for explanations. Do your best and Ms. O will help you edit your list. Remember, the description of your Activities should answer the question, "so what?" Don't just say what you did, but how it reflects what is important to you. What did you get out of it? How did you give to the group/organization/activity? **NOTE: Activities should be listed in their order of importance to you!** Do not worry if you have fewer than 10 – colleges care about quality, not quantity.

WRITING: Even if you believe you have finished your essay, please do not enter it on your CA until you've met with Ms. O, and she has approved it. Remember, writing your first draft is one of your first official assignments of Senior English for Mrs. Bernardo!

COURSES AND GRADES: You may or may not have to complete this section. As is the case with Writing, if you have entered colleges in My Colleges, you will see here whether you are applying to colleges that require you to complete this section. Alternatively, you can click on the link to the list of schools that require you to complete this section. If you do need to complete it, you will need a copy of your transcript. Just ask Ms. O for it if you need it. You will only enter information for grades 9-11 here. You already listed your senior year courses (and you have no grades yet) in the Education section of the application.

SCOIR AND THE COMMON APP

You will need to put the names of *all of the colleges* you are thinking about applying to in the Applying column in Scoir. Even if you are not sure you are applying, go ahead and add them in Scoir. You also need to maintain your list in CA – but only schools that accept the CA will be listed there.

Some colleges and universities have their own application and do not accept the CA. You will find those applications on the colleges' websites. Again, please do not submit any applications without first talking with Ms. O. Even if the application is quick to complete and requires no essay, I want to check in with you first! **No matter which application you are using, all schools you are applying to need to be in Scoir (this is how your school documents are sent).**

ESSAYS

Most of you will need to write at least one essay, and some of you may write quite a few. If you are applying to even one school that takes the CA, you need to write that essay. You will see the prompts in the Writing section of the CA – note that you always have the option “Topic of your choice” (Option 7). Colleges that have their own applications and require an essay will typically accept the CA essay.

Ms. O will review all essays before they are submitted. If you are having trouble coming up with a topic, let me know. I'll be happy to brainstorm with you. If you need a refresher on what the essay should accomplish, refer back to the [slides from our session](#) in Group Guidance. The [slides for the Brainstorming activities](#) are also posted if you want to revisit them.

Be sure you note the word limit on the essays. The CA essay should be between 500 and 650 words – don't feel compelled to write 650 if you can say what you want to say in fewer words.

Some colleges have supplemental essays. Be sure to notice whether there is a word count or a character count – there's a big difference! You don't want to make the mistake of writing 250 words when they are asking for 250 characters.

TIMELINE

August:

- August 1: Common Application goes “live” online.
 - Students should complete the CA before school starts. This takes about two hours (minus the essay).

- Work on Common App essay.
- **Tuesday, August 5, 10am-12pm OR Monday, August 11, 12-2pm: Common App Workshop at Beaumont**
- Put college lists in Scoir and in the My Colleges section of the Common App.
- Visit colleges, if possible.
- Update your Activities list in Scoir - helps to ensure your recommendation letters are up to date.

September:

- Meet with Ms. O in the first few weeks of school.
 - Discuss college list; refine if necessary
 - Review Common App
 - Discuss testing, if applicable
 - Make a list of essays that need to be written – and start writing!
 - Make a list of application deadlines
 - Talk about whether to apply Early Action (most likely yes) or Early Decision (this is a binding commitment).
- Guidance classes will be held periodically throughout the fall.
- Visit colleges, if possible. Many colleges will have Open Houses on weekends in the fall in addition to weekday tours.
- Attend college representative visits at Beaumont. The list of visits is in the Calendar section of Scoir. You must sign up in Scoir in order to attend. Visits will continue through September and October.
- **Tuesday, September 9, 7-8pm: Senior Parent College Night (virtual)**
- **Tuesday, September 23, 7-8pm: Senior Financial Aid Night (in-person, MAK)**

October:

- Some colleges have an October 15 deadline to apply. ***Please do not submit any applications until you have met with Ms. O.***
- [CSS Profile](#), a financial aid form some schools use in addition to FAFSA, goes live October 1. *Check to see whether any of your colleges require the Profile. Deadlines vary, so check for each school.*
- [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) opens October 1 this year.
- Students with November 1 deadlines (a common one) should meet with Ms. O no later than mid-October to be sure everything is in order
- Students should send Ms. O a list of the colleges they are applying to (even if the list is still tentative) and the application deadlines. This is critical for students with deadlines prior to December 1.
- Continue working on essays.
- If you will send test scores, send them three weeks in advance of application deadlines. Be sure you know whether the colleges on your list will accept self-reported scores or require that scores be sent from ACT and/or SAT.

- Continue to visit colleges and keep an eye out for campus events related to your intended major or area of academic or extracurricular interest.
- Continue to sign up for and attend visits by college representatives.

November:

- November 1 is a common Early Action deadline. If a college offers Early Action, apply by that deadline. It is non-binding and notifies students of the admission decision before Christmas or early in the New Year.
- Continue to keep Ms. O up-to-date on application deadlines. They have no way to know where to send your materials if you don't tell them!
- Be aware of any December 1 application deadlines and make an appointment to meet with Ms.O.
- Continue to visit colleges. Ask if you can observe class or meet with a faculty member if you visit during the week.

December:

- Some Early Action deadlines are Dec. 1 – be sure you know all of your deadlines.
- Christmas break encompasses application deadlines that fall in early January. And exams are in December. Plan ahead if you have early January application deadlines.
- Early Action and Early Decision notifications come out in December, usually between Dec. 10 and December 23.
- For Early Action acceptances, families generally receive the financial aid award in late February or even into March. The aid award generally does not come with the acceptance, though a merit scholarship might.

January:

- Many students will have early January application deadlines.
- Early Action decisions that are not sent out in December should arrive in January.

February:

- Many colleges' deadlines for submission of the FAFSA and, if required, CSS Profile, are in February.

March:

- March is a big month for the release of decisions from colleges that had early January deadlines.
- Many schools will be sending financial aid awards in March.

April:

- The vast majority of admission decisions have been sent out, assuming the applicant did everything on time. The same is true for financial aid awards.

- Colleges will invite accepted students to on-campus and virtual programs so they can learn more about the schools as they make their choices.

May:

- May 1 is the deadline to pay a deposit at the school where the student has decided to enroll.

Please note that this timeline isn't comprehensive, and your individual college search and application process might look a little different. If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to reach out

Yes, this is a lot of information, but it's important to see the big pictures as you begin the process. Please keep this information where you can find it so that when you have questions, especially about completing the CA, you can use this as a reference. There's plenty of support for you at Beaumont as you tackle the college process. I'm here to help!

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Ms. O