Hello seniors! We have gathered some tips that recent graduates have provided based on their experiences. We hope they can help and motivate you!

Yvonne Chen

St. John’s University ‘24

Former Senior Council Vice President

* “Never be afraid to ask others for help or advice whether it's teachers or your friends. It is never too early to start your college apps or your financial aid.”
* “Remember to ask your teachers for recommendations early.”

Rashik Ahmed

New York University ‘24

Former S.O. Corresponding Secretary

* “Knowing about the college that I was applying to. For example, NYU, I had to do my research on NYU Tandon school of engineering and what really lures me to want to be in said institution.”
* “Another thing that helps is visiting the college because this shows if you can see yourself spending 4 years there.”
* “Scores are important because top institutions may prioritize kids that have worked hard all of high school.”
* “Having internships or volunteer work onto your common app also helps, showing that you work well not only in a school setting but also a work setting (this goes into your activities section on your common app).”
* “You want your common app to look very appealing to whoever is looking at it.”
* “You need to stand out.”
* “Have multiple people read your essays because different people have different corrections to make.”

Emily Chen

Baruch College ‘24

Former S.O. Vice President

* “Get a head start with your essays.”
* “Apply to as many scholarships as possible.”
* “Some advice about scholarships is that they require an essay, like a brief essay and you need the requirements for the scholarship.”
* “Try to get FAFSA done early.”
* “Check out your schools’ majors and what they offer.”
* “Try not to slack off as much as possible even though it’s mad tempting.”
* “Check your emails!!”

Vicky Huang

Boston University ‘24

Former Senior Council Secretary

* “Start as soon as possible.”
* “It is smart to complete all your apps like FAFSA, CSS, IDOC, TAP, and common app ASAP.”
* “Thus giving you more time to focus on your personal statement, cause that's usually what takes the longest.”

Javonne Thomas

Binghamton University ‘24

Senior Council President

* “The sooner you start the better, it’s nice to get them [college apps] out of the way. That way you have more time to go back and edit anything if you need.”
* “It is a pain to try and finish your essay when you are close to the deadline.”

Anonymous

New York University ‘24

Former BHS Student

* “Don't miss Senior prep, it is the best time to ask questions.”
* “Make College group chats to help you stay on schedule and on task.”
* “Ask your guidance counselor for Mentorship forms that would put you in direct contact with college professionals.”
* “Never think that any school is out of your reach.”
* “Apply to as many schools as you de fit, never let anyone tell you that you're applying to too many (ofc there is such a thing as too much).”
* “STAY ORGANIZED!!! You are going to receive several passwords when applying to college. Keep in mind the passwords don’t just include the common app, for every school you are going to receive a student portal with an individualized password you won’t get to choose, remembering all of this is impossible. Personally, I kept them all in my notes (for example “SCHOOL NAME PASSWORD”, that way you can quickly look up the name of the school’s password in the search bar of your notes.”
* “Get several opinions on your essay but don’t trust everyone’s opinion. I personally had several opinions and had one person told me to totally scrap it. I really trusted that I made an essay I loved and didn’t take that person’s opinions and ended up getting into a top university. Be open to criticism but do not follow it blindly.”
* “Don't forget to send your SAT scores directly to all of your colleges via the college board.”

Anonymous

Borough of Manhattan Community College ‘24

Former BHS Student

* “There will be moments where you feel lazy cuz it’s senior year, but push through.”
* “You will stress a lot but it will be worth it and calmer in the end.”

Shirley Dong

Binghamton University ‘23

Former S.O. President ‘19

* “To start college applications early! Everyone loves to procrastinate but when it comes down to it, everyone rushes. It’s better to take your time to show off what you accomplished and what to show to colleges.”
* “Proofread everything! Be a stickler for good grammar and spelling from your college application to the essays. Have someone peer review at all times.”
* “Don’t be scared of rejection. It was probably not the right college for you or they didn’t see your potential because you a ⭐️.”
* “Rely on your teachers as they are great support and they know their stuff. They were once in our shoes!”
* “Always plan ahead! Schedule things ahead of time and know your next move.”
* “Don’t be afraid of new starts or new beginnings. It’s always hard in the beginning because you need a moment to adjust. But once you do, it’s a brand new experience 😉✨.”
* “Enjoy the moment! You only get to be high school seniors once! Have fun and appreciate everything and everyone around you ♥️.”

Anna Pierratos

St. John’s University ‘23

* “College apps [Common App] opened on August 1st! Start writing your essay before school starts!”
* “Ask teachers for recommendations in person! Be courteous, and respect their decision. If they say yes, write a thank you note (handwritten is a plus!)”
* “Get an agenda, it’s veeeery helpful!”
* “Get a good night’s rest.”
* “Don’t leave things for last minute!”
* “Senior year means many events, but plan your time wisely because there will be many times where you will be tempted to chill and hang but you actually need to study/finish college apps”

Allya Shon

The City College of New York ‘23

* “Do NOT leave things like completing applications and compiling recommendations until the last minute. Just don’t.”
* “If you took any AP classes and/or college-credit classes, research what kind of policy and procedure each of the schools on your list follows because \*RESULTS MAY VARY\*.”
* “Once you are accepted to your college and everything has been finalized, start to learn about the purposes of the major offices (Financial Aid, Bursar, etc.) and where they are located.”
* “Remember that senior year IS STILL VERY IMPORTANT! You can do it! 😁”

Use these tips at your own discretion. We are all different and handle things differently.

Good luck (:

Special thanks to all the graduates who helped make this document possible <3