



life after apps

By Alexandra Mayzler

You're the one who has taken the SAT (twice); sat through three grueling subject tests; participated in every meeting of Model UN Club; and played on the tennis and basketball teams. You've spent every day of the past year writing college admissions essays and English papers, and filled out what seems like a million applications.

But now that the recommendations have been requested, applications mailed, and your future is in the hands of the admissions department, what do you do for the rest of the year?

1 Take a minute for yourself

You are entitled to celebrate! After enduring all the stress of standardized exams and applications, give yourself a pat on the back! You've completed the most difficult part of the college application process.

2 Keep up your grades

Be careful not to fall into the senior slump that is "senioritis."

This contagious disease lurks in every high school senior. But deciding to pursue a less rigorous course load in your senior year could jeopardize your chances of enrolling in the college of your choice.

Colleges can request your final semester grades, and your acceptance is always contingent on your performance at the end of the year. Admissions officers are looking for students who can prove that they are ready for the rigors of a selective college.

3 Get a start on college credit

Senior year should be the most demanding year of your high school career. Take as many AP and honors classes as possible to show colleges your commitment to academics. If you score well on AP exams, you may be able to place out of

introductory-level courses in your freshman year and enter college as an upperclassman.

4 Develop your passions

You can learn a lot of lessons outside the classroom. As Mark Twain once said, "Never let schooling get in the way of your education."

If you have an interest that you haven't focused on in the past year because you were too busy with college applications, or if there is an activity you have always wanted to try, do it second semester of senior year. Haven't picked up a paintbrush since sophomore year? Always wanted to shadow a veterinarian? Do it now.

5 Spend time with family

Next year you will be embarking on a new and thrilling part of your life. For now, relax and enjoy the relationships that you have at home. Don't get worked up over running to your mailbox five times a day.

Your friends probably won't be going to the same college as you, so take the time now to strengthen those bonds. You will always appreciate the memories.

And of course, don't forget your family. After all, they endured the college application process with you, proofread your essays, printed applications and drove you to the post office at the last minute. Take pleasure in the time you have at home before beginning your new chapter. ♪



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