

## *Senior Year Advice From 2019 WHS Grads*

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The more stressed you are, the less work you'll get done. Don't dwell on something that you view as a problem without talking to your counselor first about how to get past the problem. No matter what is it that you want to do after high school, go to college, join the military, gap year, etc., it CAN and WILL happen. So, just breathe, relax and enjoy your senior year :).

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It goes by way faster than you think, but you also shouldn't rush the decision. Make sure you know what kind of path you want to take (it doesn't have to be concrete really), but also make sure you don't wait until the last minute.

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Don't wait to find out what your life outside of high school will be. Get out there and learn more things about yourself to see where you belong in the post-secondary realm.

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Take your time to consider all of your options and trust yourself - if you think it's not a good fit, it's not.

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College is not for everyone, don't be forced into something YOU don't want to do.

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Take it one step at a time. It's easy to get overwhelmed with all of the different pieces involved with senior year and the college application process. It's also never too early to look into what school you want to go to. Make sure when you're looking at colleges that it's something that you care about and it's something you want to be doing with your education. You should only be doing college for yourself and not anyone else, and it's ok if that's not your path. Always keep your options open.

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Apply to a wide variety of school, even if you aren't sure that you want to go to that type of school or program, you never know what is actually right for you - You will end up where you are supposed to be.

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Make sure to do stuff early so you aren't weighed down by it. If you get waitlisted or deferred don't worry about it because if it was meant to be you will get in. Don't worry what other people think of your plans. Don't be afraid to reach out to someone in admissions from a school you like and email them with lots of updates. Do scholarship stuff early.

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Stay Organized!!!

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It always works out in the end!! I don't know anyone who isn't excited about their future plans! At times it will be really stressful especially as decisions come out, but it always works out!

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Make sure you are organized and set deadlines. Do not apply to colleges based solely on rankings but focus on fit and programs.

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Try and step out of your comfort zone. You never know what you'll grow to love.

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You really can't predict whether or not you'll get into a school, and there's no way to know why or why not you were rejected or accepted. Therefore, the best thing you can do for yourself is to apply to safeties that you genuinely like and to keep an open mind - at this point, anything could happen.

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Think about all of your options and pick the one that best fits your checklist even if it doesn't have all the boxes filled.

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Always try to meet with your guidance counselor with any questions you may have. It helps to alleviate that stress that you feel about the process.

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Do what you think will be best for you and will make you happy because at the end of the day it is your future and not anyone else's

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Don't be discouraged if your #1 school doesn't accept you, it will hurt for a bit, but in the long run, you were meant to be at your #2 with more opportunities.

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Make a realistic list of safety (2-3), target (3-4), and reach schools (3) and don't feel pressurized to apply to a school/ not apply to a school because your friends/family told you so. I will be attending a school that my mom thought would never accept me! She didn't even want me to apply, yet here I am :) So stay true to yourself!

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Make a decision based on your needs and what will benefit you, not what other people think you should do.

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Don't stress so much about it, turns out it's easier than I'd previously thought. Plus, it's not worth losing sleep over something that can be easily solved if you simply ask for help from a counselor, teacher, or parent.

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Dedicate the proper amount of time to it and go with your gut. Don't avoid applying to a school you like just because you think you won't get in, but you should always have backups too. Also, try to keep your email not cluttered but keep the important stuff.

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When you need help, don't wait until the last minute to reach out to a counselor for help because waiting will only make it more stressful and will make the college applications/post-high school planning significantly more difficult. Counselors are there for a reason so make sure to ask any questions whether minor or huge concerns.

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Name brand colleges aren't everything; choosing the school where you believe you will be most happy and study the hardest prevails over choosing a school only because its name is well known.

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