



# Brooklyn Tech HS College Dos & Don'ts

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# College “Do’s”

Research Potential Colleges in terms of:

Academic requirements/Major requirements/Courses in intended major

Cost (distance, room and board, books, entertainment, etc.)

Location/Size/Athletics/Affiliation

Merit aid (scholarships)

Financial aid and deadlines - use the net calculator

Programs offered-will I have research opportunities, opportunity to study abroad

GPA and Test Score Profile/Percent Admitted

Etc. etc. etc. – Is it a fit? Would I feel comfortable here?

[College Research Comparison](#)

[College Search worksheet](#)

# College “Do’s” (continued)

Check out requirements for SUNY and CUNY. Use the College Compare feature on Naviance! Type in “Class of 2022 Profile” in a college’s website to determine who they have accepted.

SUNY and CUNY have easy to find requirements:

SUNY:

[https://www.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/summary-sheets/Admissions\\_qf\\_stateop.pdf](https://www.suny.edu/media/suny/content-assets/documents/summary-sheets/Admissions_qf_stateop.pdf)

CUNY:

<https://www.bths.edu/ourpages/auto/2015/12/7/32439320/Admission-Profile-2018-Freshman.pdf>

Example of a private school: Vassar:

<https://congrats2022.vassar.edu/about/>

# College “Do’s” (continued)

## Utilize tools:

CollegeMatch on Naviance; College Board, Princeton Review

Book of Majors, Ruggs (which your counselor has access)

Engage with us - your guidance counselor and college advisor.

## Who’s My Counselor?

Mrs. Maysonet-Sigler (F-Luckman, Q-Ming, G-Pugh, K-Sapan, L-Taub, V-Williams)

Mrs. McKinnon (A-Ambroise, B-Barone, C-Blain, S-Borrero, R-Bosco, Y-Montolio)

Mrs. Quinn – D-A. Chan, U-D.Chan, Z-Garcia, J-Kastanis, P-Lucario

Ms. Shere assists first generation students

Ms. Lucisano is our Scholarship Coordinator

# College “Do’s” (continued)

Do a college compare on Naviance to see where you fit in regarding students accepted to Tech and compare to students accepted to your school of interest in general. Since we have so many students applying to the same schools, the competition will be greater.

Check out required curriculum. Your senior choice of courses can be very important. Ex., if you want to be an engineer, health professional, business major, you need to take AP Calculus. Check your Tech major requirements to make sure you are getting what you need.

# College “Do’s” (continued)

- ▶ Be organized. Use checklists, charts, spreadsheets and calendars to keep track of deadlines, requirements (for example, does a school require a supplement), how many letters of recommendation do they require, scholarships, etc. and school requirements for admission.
- ▶ Know your Deadlines – deadlines for application, deadlines for teacher letters of rec and deadlines for submitting test scores. Example! If you are doing early decision to UNC, NC State, Georgia Tech, Texas A&M, the deadline is October 15! That’s right – October 15! Also, U Mich wants EVERYTHING by their early deadline – that means test scores, application, letters of recommendation, essay, etc. Not a minute later . . . ):
- ▶ Read and follow directions CAREFULLY. If an application requires 650 words, don’t go over 650 words. Stick to the word count! You’ll look careless and may not be held in as high regard. There will be students who do what is required!

# College “Do’s” (continued)

Take your time! You need to be ahead of the game and not do things at the last minute. You can't do your best work and you will be rushing. Essays should be started over the summer so that you can have time for your supplements.

Be authentic!!! Colleges want to see the real “you” not what you think they want to see. Just be you. In essays, pick a topic that is personally important to you.

Do be specific to each school you are applying to in terms of their supplements. Also, please explain things! If you're in the Y-ACT Club, spell it out so the admission officer knows what it is! Don't assume they'll know it stands for the Youth Against Child Trafficking Club.

# College “Do’s” (continued)

Read every email you receive from the College Office via Naviance. There will be group junior meetings, a Junior Night presentation, an International College Fair, our BIG College Fair, an essay writing workshop, etc. Take advantage of all opportunities!

Junior Night – February 13

International Fair – March 13

College Fair – April 10

Essay Writing Workshop – April 17

Do your college office questionnaire as well as your guidance counselor survey. Your letter of recommendation will be written from this survey! Meet with your guidance counselor and college advisor. Give information to your teachers if they ask for it, such as a brag sheet.



# College “Do’s” (continued)

Answer all optional questions as they could be connected to opportunities such as scholarships.

**TIME!** Make sure you have time to review your application. Check for spelling errors, grammatical mistakes and confirm you have followed directions. Edit! Proofread!!

Check to see if your materials were sent and received. You can check on The Common Application to see if your letters of recommendation have been sent as well as on Naviance. Make sure you find out how many letters each school requires. For example, Binghamton requires ONE teacher letter of recommendation. If you are interested in pre-med, you may want a science teacher to send a letter. So, you would request that teacher to send a letter to Binghamton and not your English teacher.

# College “Do’s” (continued)

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Ask for someone you trust to review your application and don't hesitate to ask questions and get help. That's why we're here! And if you have specific questions that you cannot find the answer on a colleges website, reach out to the admissions director for our area.

Do ask for fee waivers and research scholarships! We have a monthly scholarship newsletter that goes out each month as well as a weekly College Newsletter that outlines many opportunities, and provides clear instructions about next steps. This will include summer opportunities, opportunities to meet college reps and many other college-related activities.

Get some sort of SAT/ACT Prep! There are many fantastic organizations that offer free to low cost test prep. One favorite of mine is College Horizons at the Henry Street Settlement in the lower east side. We also have a contract with the Princeton Review!

# College “Do’s” (continued)

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Take advantage of events in the city that places like the SUNY NYC office offers.

<https://www.suny.edu/attend/suny-in-nyc/>

Interested in Syracuse? They have a Manhattan Office called the Lubin House! You can be interviewed there!

Also, take advantage of the PSAT Scoreback day on January 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 -5:30 pm in the auditorium! Also, take advantage of the Princeton Review coming in to help you prepare for SAT Subject Tests.

Be courteous, gracious and follow up with thank you emails or notes!

# College “Do’s” (continued)

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Do visit any school in NYC and/or surrounding area; otherwise, the colleges will wonder why you didn't visit! Try to visit others if possible; otherwise, look to see if the colleges are having events in NYC. Many do! Also, in the fall, we will list all the colleges that are visiting Tech. This is called “demonstrated interest” – it may be important to some schools.

Do start thinking of financial aid early! FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) gives you access to federal grants as well as loans and work study – TAP (Tuition Assistance Program) is money from New York State if you attend a private or public school in New York State. Many private schools require the CSS Profile which is a much more intensive look at your finances. There is also the Excelsior Scholarship for families earning under \$125,000 a year for free tuition for CUNY or SUNY schools as well as reduced tuition aid at some private schools. There is a commitment to stay in the state of New York after graduation – if not, loan has to be repaid.

# College “Do’s” (continued)

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[Helpful Websites for Financial Aid](#)

<https://fafsa.ed.gov/fotw1819/pdf/fafsaws18c.pdf>

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>

<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/apply-for-financial-aid/nys-tap.html>

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

<https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/the-excelsior-scholarship.html>

# College “Do’s” (continued)

Do keep a folder online with all correspondence for each school you have applied to.

**BREATHE!**

# College “Don’ts”

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We told you to ask questions of the admissions office but don’t pester them!!

Don’t make an extracurricular laundry list. Highlight the activities where you were most committed and show your passion and leadership.

Don’t miss any deadlines. They are critical. Missing them has consequences. For some schools that could lead to your application being dismissed. Don’t be a deadline “zombie”! That is someone who is walking around half awake because they started an application four hours before the deadline!

Ex. Macaulay – Dec. 1 deadline

Penn State – Priority Admission – November 30

University of California schools – November 30

University of Buffalo Scholarships – December 15

Boston University Scholarships – November 15

# College “Don’ts” (continued)

Don't rely on your parents! Parents, your child is driving the car during this process! You can give them lessons and strategic tips and of course, you can't allow them to drive off a cliff but this is their process. They need to do the work and become responsible. Parents should support their child not do the work for them.

Don't worry about applying to a certain number of schools. Have a nice array of safety, target and reach schools. You don't have to feel like you have to apply to a school because many other Tech students are applying there, they gave you a fee waiver or you actually wouldn't attend if offered admission.



# College “Don’ts” (continued)

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And in that vein, you don’t have to apply “early” anything if you do not want to and are not ready to do so. Get familiar with the terms “early decision, early action, early decision II, regular decision and rolling decision.” If interested in a school, research what percentage of students are admitted early.

Don’t add extra essays. For example, The Common Application has a section titled “additional info”- this is where you can explain why you transferred high schools, or had a drop in grades, but this isn’t the place to add an extra essay.

Don’t forget to complete a portfolio if you need one or submit a piece of artwork, theatrical performance, etc. You may be required to submit this via [www.slideroom.com](http://www.slideroom.com)

# College “Don’ts” (continued)

Don't ask people who don't know you well to write your letter of recommendation who can speak to your character, strengths as a student, your intellect, etc. and please don't rush them. Teachers and counselors need time to write their best letters.

Don't forget to thank your recommenders. It is a good habit to always thank people who have helped you in any manner.

Don't listen to friends and social media all the time. Check in with your college advisor or counselor as to what is the truth or ask someone in admissions at the college.

# Final Thoughts!!!

Remember - you are extremely fortunate. Yes, applying to college is stressful but you are very lucky to be able to attend college and start this voyage of self-discovery. Where you attend college does not determine your self-worth. Only you can do that! Keep finding the time for things that you are passionate about in life!

Don't procrastinate!

# College Do's and Don'ts

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## Avoid These Big College Application Mistakes

<https://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/2013/09/11/avoid-these-big-college-application-mistakes>

# Types of Applications

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## Types of Applications:

Common Application – it connects to Naviance for the purpose of sending letters of recommendation, transcripts, the school profile, etc. You can apply up to 20 schools on this application.

Did you know that 45% of the schools on the common app allow you to apply for free?

Essay prompts come out August 1<sup>st</sup> every year-they haven't changed in a few years

Don't forget your supplemental essays!

<https://www.nacacnet.org/globalassets/documents/publications/gcap2018final.pdf>

[www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/common-app](http://www.usnews.com/education/best-colleges/articles/common-app)

<https://www.commonapp.org/whats-appening/application-updates/2018-2019-common-application-essay-prompts>

# Types of Applications

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Coalition Application – used exclusively by some schools – don't use this unless you HAVE to! We have been able to send all documents via Naviance so far.

SUNY portal (better to use Common App for SUNYs – however, FIT must be done on the portal)

CUNY application-Do ONE application for both CUNY and Macaulay. You get to apply to 6 schools for \$65.

Many schools have their own application-ex. MIT, Georgetown. Some allow documents to be sent via Naviance and some require documents to be mailed.

The Common Application: Everything you need to know!

[https://www.bths.edu/ourpages/auto/2015/12/7/53551997/The%202018-19%20Guide%20to%20the%20Common%20App%20\\_CW%20Reach%20Higher\\_.pdf](https://www.bths.edu/ourpages/auto/2015/12/7/53551997/The%202018-19%20Guide%20to%20the%20Common%20App%20_CW%20Reach%20Higher_.pdf)

# Question and Answers

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