



## Junior Package

### Overview

Junior year is when things get real. Admissions offices will be focusing particular scrutiny on junior grades, especially if applying for Early Decision, so it's important to do everything we can to avoid unnecessary stress and continue optimizing our academic and extracurricular potential. We begin the new school year with a general consultation to get a big-picture view of the application process and to lay out all the tasks before us. Establishing an individualized timeline is essential as we try to pace ourselves throughout the year and avoid pinch points in the academic calendar. We will consider whether or not standardized testing (ACT, SAT, TOEFL, etc.) will add value to the application and then potentially add a testing plan to our calendar.

Next, we utilize data from Myers-Briggs interests and skills inventory assessments to get a better idea of potential majors/careers and potentially narrow our college search criteria. From here we take a deep dive into researching potential universities with the goal of creating a unique list of best-fit colleges that offers a range of selectivity and matches the student's criteria in every way. Toward the end of your second semester junior year, you will work one-on-one with your counselor to consolidate the narrative around your high school experience including your course choices, grades/test scores, extracurricular activities, supercurricular engagement, demonstrated interest, summer opportunities, and future interests. We take this narrative and purposefully weave it throughout the application via your essays, letters of recommendation, supplemental materials, and all aspects of the online application.

During your senior year, our top priority is to assemble the best possible application while avoiding academic fatigue and social strain that plagues many seniors (and their families). We will consider how factors like financial aid, Early Decision, and late testing may weigh in our application strategy and our deadlines. Our planning spells out a clear timeline and our support ensures we avoid procrastination or the last-minute rush to meet a deadline.

The Junior Package is a two-year commitment from Odyssey Admissions. You are guaranteed one-on-one support through the application deadlines and beyond the May 1st National College Decision Day.

### Services

**Overview Consultation** - This meeting includes the student and family and is essential in understanding the process in its entirety. We go through all aspects of the application process from the student perspective as well as the review process from the admissions perspective. We will demystify terminology, discuss how to formulate an overall strategy, consider recent admissions trends, and address frequently asked questions.

**Timeline & Deadlines** - A thorough understanding of tasks on the horizon is key to successfully accomplishing work today. We will take a look at all the tasks ahead of us from start to finish and space it all out so that the work is manageable. By incorporating your school calendar into this, we avoid academic pinch-points and eliminate unnecessary conflict. The goal is to maximize opportunity, not stress.

**Skills/Interests Inventory** - When students understand their own individual interests, skills, and abilities, they are more likely to make decisions that positively impact their future. After identifying this information via the Strong Interest Inventory© by Myers-Briggs, we consider how to best utilize the findings in both the high school and college context.

**Course Selection** - Your choice of classes will play a major part in how an admissions office will evaluate you. These choices are also important in ensuring your academic record reflects both a challenging curriculum and successful grades. We will look at what your school has to offer and consider the best fit for the individual student.

**Standardized Testing** - Even though there is a prevalent trend away from required standardized testing, 86% of all degree-granting universities in the US continue to require either an SAT or ACT. This percentage grows when applying for financial aid. We work together to craft a strategy and timeline that offers the most advantage and avoids the last-minute crush that students easily fall into during their senior year.

**Extracurricular & Supercurricular Activities** - Collaborating in one-on-one meetings, we will take data collected in your interest/skill inventory surveys to consider all that your high school has to offer as well as opportunities within the greater community as well as further afield. The goal is to help you find your passion and get you involved.

**Summer Opportunities** - Summers are meant to be opportunities for growth and exploration and fun. We will brainstorm and research ideas that help you accomplish all this while also making you a more interesting candidate from the admissions perspective.

**Transcript Review** - The purpose of this is to ensure the school is representing you accurately. Mistakes happen more often than any school would like to admit, and our review of this pivotal document is meant to guarantee errors are avoided.

**Student Resume** - A student resume is almost never required for American universities. However, it can be a great way to control the narrative you are sharing in your application and demonstrate your dedication to certain areas of interest. We work together to create a resume to be proud of. This document can also be used for applications to summer opportunities.

**College Search & Research** - Utilizing a wide variety of resources (online and off) and the shared experience of a counselor who has visited hundreds of college campuses, we begin with the student's individual fingerprint of search criteria and develop a list of schools that fit you.

**Campus Visits** - Visiting a college campus offers a chance to fill in the blanks left over from

even the most thorough research and sheds valuable light on the “X-Factor” that only reveals itself when you step foot on that campus quad. We talk about the dos and don’ts of a campus visit, and we try to connect you with the admissions officer who will be reading your application. The global pandemic has complicated traditional campus visit protocol, but we stay up-to-date as this changes.

**Best-Fit College List** - Deciding on a final application list isn’t a simple decision. We strike a balance between reaching for dream schools, finding appropriate target schools, and ensuring that we have safe options that still excite us. This combination allows us to shoot for those “what if” schools while also protecting us from missing out because of a particularly competitive admissions season.

**ED/EA/RD Gameplan** - The statistics around Early Decision and Early Action are encouraging but constantly changing, especially with the unpredictability of a global pandemic. Great advantages can be gained by making these decisions before even applying.

**Demonstrated Interest** - One of those fringe elements in a student’s application, demonstrated interest can be a great way of making your application stand out. We talk about what it looks like and how to show it to your top choice colleges.

**Application Support & Supplemental Materials** - Odyssey Admissions does not fill in the application for you, but we are available for advice every step of the way. There are a hundred different ways to do it wrong, so we make sure your questions are answered and offer tips throughout.

**Essay Workshop** - Starting from scratch, we use a structured approach to brainstorming possible ideas that fall in line with the overall application narrative you are hoping to convey. Expanding upon these ideas, an essay takes shape. With a master’s degree in English literature and nine years of classroom teaching experience, you are in good hands as we go through the recursive process of draft, workshop, revise, edit. In the end, you will be submitting an essay that you can be proud of.

**Communication w/ Admissions Office** - This is where networking pays dividends. Odyssey Admissions attends several conferences each year and visits 20-30 campuses each year. The relationships forged within the profession give us a powerful voice to advocate for you.

**Financial Aid & Scholarships** - Financial aid and scholarships are as individualized as the student. We will consider all aspects of the student and utilize specialized search engines to identify a variety of sources of financial support. We also discuss how applying for financial aid will affect your chances of getting accepted to your best-fit colleges.

**Interview Prep** - While admissions interviews are not overwhelmingly common, when available, they can provide an important push for applications that are “on the fence.” We talk about what to expect, how to prepare, how to present yourself, and how to control the narrative.

**Decision Strategy** - Once all those offers come pouring in, you have to make a life-changing decision...but you aren't alone! We weigh the pros and cons of each offer in order to make sure you are happy and can move forward without regret. For students applying to multiple countries, this may necessitate a complicated, strategic decision.

**Counselor Access** - Consistent access to your counselor means you get answers to your questions and personalized advice whenever you need it. No lengthy appointment waits...just call.

### **Investment**

**Time (estimated):** 30-35 hours of one-on-one work with your counselor

**Price:** Contact us for more information on package pricing

**Discount:** A discount is applied for families who have already benefitted from the Freshman/Sophomore Package.