



Senior Package

Overview

The senior package is for students and families who are either confident in their abilities to do the early stages of the application on their own or who find themselves beginning senior year with an abundance of questions and want focused support in the final stages of the application process. Getting support from Odyssey Admissions means you utilize the precious time available in the few months before applying, and it ensures that key decisions are informed by both insider admissions perspective as well as a seasoned high school counselor who has made this journey hundreds of times before. We start with what you have and build from there.

Establishing and following a strict timeline is essential for the Senior Package. Our overview consultation will be packed with vital information and advice. Soon after our first meeting, we will have an individualized timeline that promises to meet deadlines while also allowing strategic windows for students to focus on their academics and avoid stress.

Like all our packages, our work with seniors is highly personalized. Researching and forming a list of best-fit colleges is a lengthy process that begins immediately. We also take stock of skills and interests via Myers Briggs assessments and strategize how we want to frame the overall narrative presented to the admissions team via your course choices, grades/test scores, extracurricular activities, supercurricular engagement, demonstrated interest, summer opportunities, and future interests. A great deal of our work together will focus on crafting an essay that helps convey this narrative while also emphasizing how you stand out from the crowd.

With many applications being submitted in November, time is precious. We will consider how to use Early Decision/Early Action in our overall strategy, and we will work together to make the best decision for you as those offers come pouring in. The Senior Package is a year-long commitment which means Odyssey Admissions is there to support well beyond the National College Decision Day.

Unfortunately, time limits the scope of this package. It is not simply a condensed version of the Junior Package. We will have limited ability to enact real strategy in areas like standardized testing, course choices, and demonstrated interest. Nevertheless, it doesn't limit the scope of benefits that come from making the right moves in the time we have. That's what Odyssey Admissions delivers.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Limited Services

****The services below require time, and time is limited at the beginning of your senior year. The Senior Package will address the topics below, but the scope of influence on these aspects of the application process may be limited by the time available as well as decisions made in previous years.*

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.

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.

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.

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.

Investment

Time (estimate): 15-20 hours of one-on-one work with your counselor

Price: Contact us for more information on package pricing