

# ORGANIZING THE APPLICATION PROCESS



# Where should I apply?

- Pick 5-10 schools based on your research about their social atmospheres, academic programs, and admissions statistics.
- Apply to at least 1-2 safety schools, 3-6 match schools, and 1-4 reach schools.
- Good strategy: Apply to as many reach schools as you can! You may be surprised at where you'll get in. Obviously, you'll still want to apply to a few safety and match schools that you really like.
- Don't look at tuition as a limiting factor at this point! Apply to the schools you want, and narrow down your choices when you receive your aid package in the spring.

# Sample College List

Student Profile: 2000 SAT, 30 ACT, 3.8 unweighted GPA, AP/IB and honors classes, varsity soccer team, student council treasurer

Safety schools:

Texas State, University of Houston, LSU

Match Schools:

University of Texas- Austin, Tulane University, Austin College, Southern Methodist University

Reach Schools:

Rice University, Cornell University, Claremont McKenna College

# Getting Organized

- Have separate folders for each school
- Have a calendar marked with standardized testing dates and application deadlines
- Print out all necessary forms (recommendations, secondary school reports, mid-year grade reports, etc.)
- Keep resume updated with senior year activities
- Keep receipt of application fees
- Make sure to send standardized testing scores
  - easiest to use form at the end of the test
- Don't forget to do the supplements!
- Do NOT mix and match application, supplement, and payment
  - do them all online or all on paper
- Set up interviews early (if necessary)



THE COMMON APPLICATION  
For Undergraduate College Admission



# RECOMMENDATIONS

- Ask counselors, teachers, and coaches or employers for letters of recommendation
- Allow plenty of time to meet application deadlines
  - (3 weeks or more)
- Provide stamped and addressed envelopes
- Don't forget to fill out your portion of the recommendation forms
- Follow-up with your recommendation letters ... teachers forget sometimes!



# Other Random Tips

- Get applications done so that you can proofread everything
- Send forms in EARLY
  - Stuff gets lost in the mail, test scores aren't sent ...
- Write thank you notes to recommenders and interviewers
- Use certified mail if you have to send something really last minute
- Have all your colleges' mailing addresses in a word document