

commitment to attend the school if you get accepted. One advantage is knowing early in your senior year whether or not you have been accepted to the school.

**Regular Decision:** A majority of our students will apply under this heading. This is the deadline you must meet for your application to that school. This could be as early as November 15<sup>th</sup> or as late as February 15<sup>th</sup>, each college having their own deadline. Generally, schools will wait until after their regular decision deadline to send out admissions decisions.

**Rolling Admission:** This is a type of admission where the school has no specific deadline, but simply continues to take applications until they have filled their incoming freshman class. In this situation, the earlier you apply, the earlier you find out and often have a better chance of being accepted.

**Special Circumstances:** Each major may have a different deadline. For example, Springfield College in Massachusetts has a December deadline for Athletic Training and Physical Therapy and a January deadline for Physician Assistant and Occupational Therapy. Their deadline for all other programs is in April.

Bottom Line: It is your responsibility to know when deadlines are and to complete your applications in a timely manner to assure you meet those deadlines!! Use the College Preparation Checklist (\*) to stay organized.

## **Completing Your College Applications**

Now that you have identified the application types and deadlines for the schools you are applying to, it is time to get started on the real deal: The application itself. There are a few different ways to apply to colleges and universities. First, we will discuss online vs. paper applications and the general parts included in most applications. Then we discuss three specific types of applications you may use to apply: School specific applications, the SUNY Application, and the Common Application.

### **Online Applications vs. Paper Applications**

In recent years the popularity of students applying to colleges online has increased tremendously. This is a great way to apply as it can occasionally cut down on application costs and gets the information out to colleges in a timely manner. However, the downside of applying online is that students will often forget to follow up with their counselor and teachers to make sure that all pieces of the application (i.e.