

## Top Ten Senior Year Mistakes

As you can see, senior year of high school is a busy time. Between taking tests like the SAT and ACT, worrying about your GPA and transcript, doing your college search, sending out your applications and waiting to find out about admissions at your colleges and universities, it is understandable that you would be tempted to put “all that school stuff” aside and have fun with your friends.

Keep your eyes on the education prize! Balance is key: take breaks to recharge and have fun, but don't let “senioritis” overtake you and make your college options slip away. Finding a balance between having fun, studying for your courses, and planning for your next life step is a great way to start preparing for college, since you will be called upon to do this during your college years.

To help you stay focused, here are ten of the top mistakes students make during their senior year.

- 1. Missing class:** Skipping class could mean missing valuable information for tests and information you may need for your major in college.
- 2. Thinking your second semester grades do not count:** Admission departments have been known to rescind acceptance letters of students who drop tough classes or let their GPA sink dramatically.
- 3. Giving in to “senioritis”.** A bit of restlessness is expected; however, do not lose motivation or procrastinate, which can ruin your senior year and make you less prepared for college.
- 4. Getting overwhelmed:** Juggling everything from homework to essays to tests to prom to a social life can be difficult, but by making lists and timelines, you can keep track of everything.
- 5. Not Keeping your priorities straight:** Planning for college does not mean you can forget about your current obligations; continue to be a good student in the classroom and continue to participate in extracurricular activities.
- 6. Forgetting to study:** Keep up with assignments and remind yourself that every good grade gets you close to finding a college that offers a great program you want.
- 7. Underestimating the time needed to get your work done:** Be realistic about your current workload. Calculate how long you think something will take you, then double it, because the pressure of everything may cause you to work slower or cause distractions.
- 8. Daydreaming about your future academic plans:** Your mind may wander thinking about college, possible careers and future plans. Focus on the present.
- 9. Blowing off “less important” work:** Everything counts, so try not to be fooled by the idea of a second paper or midterm quiz. Even if something is only worth 10% of your grade, take it seriously.
- 10. Failing to use the resources that are available to you:** Use the help that is out there, including speaking with your counselor and teachers. Teachers can be a big help to get through the second half of the year.