

Senior Year Timeline

September

- Schedule meeting with your guidance counselor to discuss majors and potential colleges.
- Schedule interviews with prospective colleges: Identify at least one school that you're fairly certain you'll gain admission to.
- Make a list of application requirements and deadlines for each school.
- Ask teachers and advisors for letters of recommendation.
- Work on application essays.
- Determine the total cost of applications.

October

- Take the ACT/SAT.
- Get serious with your parents about college costs. What can you afford and what will be needed in terms of financial aid.
- Begin scholarship application process.

November

- If you've already decided on your school, submit your early decision application (usually due by December 1).
- Continue working on applications and have teachers and parents review your essays.
- Be certain to include all necessary fees, forms, essays, transcripts and other materials along with the application. Retain copies of all paperwork sent to the schools.
- Ask prospective colleges about financial aid and scholarships.

December

- Take another shot at the ACT/SAT if necessary. Make sure the colleges which you are applying will accept scores after December 1.
- Finish up those applications! Many are due in early January. Many scholarship applications are due in December.

January

- Ask your parents to begin gathering all financial information needed to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and CSS profile and file as soon as possible after January 1. Remind your parents to file their taxes early this year!
- Check with prospective schools about any additional financial aid forms needed. Many schools require their own form be completed in addition to the FAFSA and/or CSS profile.

February

- Be on the lookout for your Student Aid Report (SAR) to arrive approximately four weeks after you've submitted the FAFSA. Make sure all information is correct.

March/April

- You should begin receiving responses to your applications as well as financial aid packages.
- Begin comparing offers and weigh the pros and cons.
- Decision time! Most colleges request that you accept or decline by May 1.

May

- Check to make sure you have all necessary forms for housing, insurance, etc...
- Notify colleges that you have decided not to attend.
- Continue searching for additional scholarships.

June

- Have final transcripts sent to your college.
 - Set up a college budget with your parents.
 - Congratulations! You're ready for the next step in your life-college!
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- Become involved in activities you enjoy. Students who are involved with their high school community will most likely be involved in their college campus.
 - Begin to think about what type of college you would like to attend and what areas of interest you would like to study.