



COLLEGE PLANNING FOR SENIORS

Fall

- Download college applications and financial aid forms.
- Make an appointment to meet with your counselor ASAP about college selections.
- Decide which schools are good for you. For instance a big or small college; one close to home or away from home; a public or private school, etc.
- Narrow your selection of schools to between 4 and 6 and visit as many of them as possible.
- Prepare early decision, early action or rolling admission applications as soon as possible.
- Apply to the colleges which interest you most and complete as many applications as possible **by Thanksgiving**. **However, prepare early decision, early action or rolling admission applications as soon as possible.**
- Register for the SAT, ACT or both if you have not do so already; or if you want to retake the tests.
- Have your college test scores sent to the schools which you are applying.
- Make a binder to hold all of your college documentation. Include sections for a calendar for college application deadlines, entrance requirements, contact information, high school transcript, letters of recommendations, test scores, financial aid information and budgets; community service, and miscellaneous.
- Ask your principal, teacher or counselor for letters of recommendations if you need them.
- Ask your counselor to send your transcripts to colleges that you applied to.
- Generate a résumé to record your accomplishments, activities and work experience beginning with your freshmen year of high school and give it to each person who you have asked to write your letters of recommendation.
- Write your application essay and discuss it with your English teacher ASAP.
- Discuss budgeting and how to pay for college with your family. Research how to obtain financial aid and private scholarship sources.
- Request information for private scholarships that you have identified and track requirements and deadlines for these sources.

Spring

- Apply for financial aid. Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible after January 1st. **Everyone must complete a FAFSA.**

- Be sure to list the schools you are considering on attending on your FAFSA. You can list up to six.
- You should receive a notice that your FAFSA was received approximately 2 weeks after filing.
- You will receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) 4 to 8 weeks after filing your FAFSA. Be sure to check it carefully.
- Check the mail for Award Letter from colleges that have accepted you for admission. Award Letters lists the types and amounts of financial aid.
- Decide on the school that you plan to attend and **send a deposit only to that school.** Colleges cannot require your deposit before May 1st.
- You must notify all colleges that mailed you acceptance letters that you are rejecting their offer of admission and their offer of financial aid.
- Find a job to offset college tuition.
- Happy Graduation!