

# Senior Planning Calendar

**There are so many things to do your senior year! The KEY to success is working ahead. Please do not procrastinate!**

## SEPTEMBER

- Familiarize yourself with CFNC.org and CollegeBoard.com if you haven't done so. They have a wealth of information!
- If you have not held any leadership positions while in high school, now is the time to step up and assume leadership of one of those organizations.
- Review college materials: college guidebooks, and other resources to narrow your college list. Use our College Planning Resources to find all the online guides you'll need.
- Begin to finalize list of colleges with your family and guidance counselor.
- Consider visits, overnight stays, and interviews at your top college choices. Visit (personally or virtually) any colleges you have not already seen.
- Register for one last shot at the SAT or ACT if you haven't taken one of them yet -- or if you aren't happy with earlier scores. And be sure to take the SAT Subject Tests, if required.
- Begin thinking about teachers who would be willing to write strong letters of recommendation on your behalf. Fill out the Senior Profile to give to counselors and teachers who will be writing your recommendation letters.
- Begin brainstorming ideas for your college essays.
- Begin reviewing applications online. Be sure to review each college's application requirements carefully.
- Attend college fairs for one final review of college choices.
- Be sure your senior year mix of classes still includes challenging, college-prep courses
- Stay focused on grades.

## OCTOBER

- Finalize list of college choices to reasonable number: ideally with one or more "stretch" schools and one "safety" school.
- Create a file for each of your college choices -- and keep all materials organized.
- Consider creating a master schedule of all your application deadlines.
- Begin working on drafts of your college essays.
- Start working on college applications.
- If you have a clear "first choice" college, consider applying for early decision.
- Have standardized testing service send your scores to your list of colleges.
- Stay focused on grades.

## NOVEMBER

- Finalize drafts of your college essays, but only after numerous edits, rewrites, and reviews by people you trust (family, friends, teachers).
- Complete college applications.
- Be sure your guidance counselor knows your final list of colleges, as well as your preferences.
- Request key financial aid and scholarship information from your list of colleges.
- Stay focused on grades.

## **DECEMBER**

- If you applied for early decision to a college, expect notification this month.
- If not completed, finish the remainder of college applications.
- Start detailed financial aid search, including outside sources for scholarships and loans. Begin applying for Local Scholarships in the Counseling Office.
- Stay focused on grades.

## **JANUARY**

- If applying for financial aid, get started on preparations by obtaining a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form.
- Stay focused on grades.

## **FEBRUARY**

- Complete the FAFSA, if possible. (You'll need your family's/guardian's tax records.)
- Keep track of your college applications; be sure all schools have received all your materials.
- Stay focused on grades.

## **MARCH**

- College decision letters begin arriving.
- Celebrate your acceptances, decide about your wait lists, and deal positively with your rejections.
- Finalize financial aid applications.
- Continue searching and applying for scholarships and grants.
- Stay focused on grades.

## **APRIL**

- Make decision about college choice from among the colleges that accepted you.
- Notify all colleges (that accepted you) of your final decision.
- Submit tuition deposit to your college of choice.
- Continue searching and applying for scholarships and grants.
- Stay focused on grades.

## **MAY**

- Be sure to submit paperwork for room and board.
- Continue searching and applying for scholarships and grants.
- Stay focused on grades

## **JUNE**

- Celebrate your high school success!
- Send thank you notes (if you haven't already) to everyone who helped you this year.
- Start planning for college.
- Watch college's summer deadlines (orientations, housing options, registration, etc.) closely.

## **JULY**

- Register for fall courses at your college.
- Begin preparing for your new adventure.
- Read our article, [Your First Year of College: 25 Tips to Help You Survive and Thrive Your Freshman Year and Beyond](#)