

Senior Year

September

- Meet with your guidance counselor early in the school year to discuss possible majors and identify potential schools.



- Request applications and brochures from the colleges in which you're interested.
- Schedule interviews with prospective schools. Identify at least one school that you're fairly certain you'll gain admission.
- Take the SATs and/or ACTs. Have the results sent to your prospective schools.
- Make a list of application requirements for each school, making sure to note deadlines.
- Ask teachers, advisors and other adults for letters of recommendation.
- Work on application essays.
- Establish a budget for application costs. You must pay for each application you submit – so choose only the ones in which you are truly interested.

October

- Get serious with your parents about college costs: what you can afford and what will be needed in terms of financial aid.
- Have your high school transcripts sent to prospective schools.
- Take the SAT/ACT and have results sent to your prospective colleges.
- Continue your search for scholarships and begin the scholarship application process.

November

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

December

- Take another shot at improving those test scores. Both the SAT and ACT tests have dates scheduled for December.
- Finish up those college applications! Many are due in December or by early January.

January

- Gather financial materials needed to submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and file as soon as possible after January 1. (Your parents' income tax returns will be required in order to complete the FAFSA, so remind them to file those taxes early!)
- Check with prospective schools about any additional financial aid forms needed.
- Check to ensure schools have received your applications.

February

- Be on the lookout for your Student Aid Report (SAR) to arrive four to six weeks after you submit your FAFSA. Check to make sure information is accurate.

March/April

- You should begin receiving responses to your applications. Compare offers and weigh the pros and cons.
- If you receive notification that you've been placed on a waiting list, let the admissions office know if you are still interested.
- Apply for summer jobs or internships.
- Decision time! Most colleges request that you accept or decline by May 1.

May

- Check to make sure you have the required forms for housing, financial aid, health care insurance, etc.
- Notify the college of any private scholarships you have received.
- Check out additional information on scholarships and student loans. (Check with local businesses and organizations or your church.)
- Notify the colleges you have decided not to attend.

June/July/August

- Check final deadlines for financial aid, housing, etc.
- Have final high school transcripts sent to your college.
- Set up a college budget.
- Get established with a bank near your new school.