

What Can You Do To Prepare for College?!?

12th Grade – Senior Year

Apply to colleges. Make decisions. Finish high school with pride in yourself.

September

- Check on application and financial aid deadlines for the schools to which you plan to apply. They may vary, and it is essential to meet all deadlines!
- Meet with your school counselor to be sure your list includes colleges appropriate to your academic and personal record. Review your transcript and co-curricular records with your school counselor to ensure their accuracy.
- Register for the October/November SAT and/or SAT Subject Test, or September/October ACT.
- If the colleges require recommendations, ask the appropriate people to write on your behalf. At least three weeks before the due date, ask your counselor and teachers, employers or coaches to write letters of recommendation. Provide a completed recommendation request and/or your resume to the people writing your recommendation. Be thoughtful! Write thank you notes to those who write recommendations and keep them informed of your decisions.
- Plan visits to colleges and set up interviews (if applicable).

October

- Attend a college fair to investigate further those colleges to which you will probably apply.
- Submit applications online in time to reach the colleges by the deadlines. Send your SAT and/or ACT test scores to the colleges, see Ms. Mazzouccolo to send your high school transcript, and log into your Workday account to request that your college transcript be sent electronically to the colleges to which you are applying.
- If applying for early decision or early action, send in your application now. Also, prepare applications for back-up schools. Remember, if you are accepted under the early decision option, you are expected to enroll at that college and to withdraw all other applications. Submit financial aid information if requested from early decision/action candidates.
- Register for the December/January SAT and/or SAT Subject Tests, or December ACT if you have not completed the required tests or if you are not happy with your previous test scores and think you can do better.
- Have official test scores sent by the testing agency to colleges on your list.
- Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) form online at <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>. You can request a paper version of the FAFSA form by calling 800/4-FEDAID. Check to see if the colleges to which you are applying require any other financial aid form. Register for the CSS Profile if required and obtain the college's own financial aid forms, if available. You can begin working on the FAFSA as early as **October 1st**.

November

- Take the ACT, SAT and/or SAT Subject Tests if appropriate. Don't forget to have test scores sent to colleges on your list.
- Be sure your first quarter grades are good.
- Continue completing applications to colleges. Make sure to proofread everything that you submit electronically to colleges.
- Keep all records, test score reports and copies of applications for admission and financial aid. Do not throw anything away until at least the end of your first year in college. Having detailed records will save you time and effort should anything be lost or should you decide to apply in the future to other colleges and scholarship programs.

December

- Have official test scores sent to colleges on your list if you have not done so.
- Submit completed community scholarship applications to Ms. Jones no later than December 1st.
- Consult your school counselor again to review your final list of colleges. Be sure you have all bases covered. It is a good idea to make copies of everything before you drop those envelopes in the mail. If for some reason your application gets lost, you will have a back-up copy. File your last college application.
- If you applied for Early Decision, you should have an answer by now. If you are accepted, follow the instructions for admitted students. If the decision is deferred until spring or you are denied, submit applications now to other colleges.

January

- Keep working on your grades! Courses continue to count throughout the senior year.
- Request that Ms. Mazzouccolo send the transcript of your first semester grades to the colleges to which you applied, if needed.
- Remember to monitor your applications to be sure that all materials are sent and received on time and that they are complete. Stay on top of things and don't procrastinate; you can ruin your chances for admission by missing a deadline.
- Continue working on scholarship applications.

February

- Complete scholarship applications. You may be eligible for more scholarships than you think, so apply for as many as you can.
- Enjoy your final year in high school, but don't catch senioritis!

March

- Stay focused and keep studying—only a couple more months to go!

April

- Do not take rolling admission applications for granted. (Some colleges do not have application deadlines; they admit students on a continuous basis.) These schools may reach their maximum class size quickly—the earlier you apply, the more availability there may be.
- Review your college acceptances and financial aid awards. Be sure to compare financial aid packages in your decision-making process. If you are positive you will not enroll at one or more of the colleges that accepted you, please inform those colleges you have selected another college. Keeping colleges abreast of your plans might enable those colleges to admit someone else. If you know which college you will attend, send your tuition deposit and follow all other instructions for admitted students. You must decide which offer of admission to accept by May 1 (postmark date).

May 1

- By May 1, decide on the one college that you will attend. By May 1, send in your tuition deposit to the college you will attend. Notify the other colleges that accepted you that you have selected another college.
- BE PROUD—you have completed a difficult task.
- If your first-choice college places you on their waiting list, do not lose all hope. Some students are admitted off the waiting list. Talk with your counselor, and contact the college to let them know you are still very interested. Keep the college updated on your activities.
- Request that your AP scores be sent to the college you will attend, if applicable.

June

- Request that Ms. Mazzouccolo send your final transcript to the college you will attend. Notify the college of any private scholarships or grants you will be receiving.
- Know when the payment for tuition, room and board, meal plans, etc., is due. If necessary, ask the financial aid office about a possible payment plan that will allow for you to pay in installments.
- Congratulations, you've made it through high school! Enjoy your graduation, and look forward to college.

July

- Look for information from the college about housing, roommate(s), orientation, course selection, etc. Respond promptly to all requests from the college.

August–September

- Ease the transition into college. Accept the fact that you'll be in charge of your academic and personal life. What you do, when you do it and how things get done will be up to you. You'll have new responsibilities and challenges. Think about budgeting your time and establishing priorities. Take charge of the changes that lie ahead and eliminate or minimize pressures. Go forth with confidence and enthusiasm, willingness to adapt and determination to succeed academically and personally.
- Pack for college. Don't forget to include things that remind you of friends and family. Be prepared for the new opportunities and challenges. Have a great freshman year!