

Seniors: Pre-College Calendar and Checklist Important Dates and Deadlines

GREAT! Going to college is a major step in preparing for your future. Now, in your senior year, the important work of turning your post high school plans into reality really get going. It'll be a year of:

Self-reflection

Take time throughout this year to think about your:

- Interests
- Strengths and weaknesses
- Accomplishments
- Goals

Exploring your options

For example, keep looking into:

- Which colleges might be right for you
- Options for application plans
- Financial aid opportunities
- Possible majors
- Possible careers
- Taking action

There's a lot to do this year. Applying for college involves many steps – from taking standardized test to getting teacher recommendations. Remember, all your hard work will pay off!

Special experiences

Make the most of your last year in high school. You may never have a year quite like this again!

August

- Review your career plans and decide which type of school is right for you.
- Visit some college campuses.
- Narrow your college list to 3-5 schools.
- Request catalogs and admissions information.
- Contact your high school counselor for registration materials and test dates for the SAT and/or the ACT.

September

- Meet with admissions representatives who are visiting your school.
- Make a list of all test names, dates, fees, registration deadlines, and deadlines for college admissions and financial aid applications.
- Remember you must take tests like the SAT and ACT at least six weeks before the deadline for scores to be submitted to colleges.
- Begin asking teachers, guidance counselors, and employers for letters of recommendation to include with your admissions and/or scholarship applications.

October

- Take the SAT or ACT exam if necessary.
- Apply for CSU Colleges. Check with the colleges to find out when material must be postmarked (November 30th).
- Work on admissions application essays.
- Visit your top school choices. Interview some students, faculty, and staff.

- Attend special programs such as college fairs and financial aid nights.
- Find out which financial aid applications your college choices require and when the forms are due.
- Some private universities may require that you register for CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE at this time. (This determines your qualification for private school aid.)

November

- Last chance to register for December ACT and SAT.
- Take the SAT or ACT exam if necessary.
- Obtain financial aid applications from your guidance office or college of choice. Read them carefully to determine what information is required and when the applications are due.
- Begin to prepare your UC College applications. Check with the colleges to find out when materials must be postmarked (November 30th deadline)

December

- Pick up a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at your high school counseling office. Begin working on it, but DO NOT submit it before January 1.
- Watch for FAFSA workshop in the counseling office (TBA).
- Apply for outside funding or scholarships.
- Tip for Parents: Save your year-end payroll stub if it shows your earnings for the year. You may need it for financial aid eligibility reviews by schools.

January

- Submit your completed FAFSA to the processor as soon after January 1 as possible. Keep copies of all of the forms you submit. It's helpful to get your income tax returns prepared early - schools may request them to prove eligibility for financial aid.

February

- Visit the counseling office and check to see if your midyear transcripts have been sent to the schools to which you have applied.
- Mail your FAFSA if you have not already done so (Deadline March 2nd).
- Research taking Advanced Placement (AP) or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.
- Rank your finalized list of colleges.
- Students attending Vocational Ed. schools or Junior Colleges, check with the counseling office for Admissions and Placement Test dates.

March

- Look for your Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail. Your SAR contains federal financial aid information.
- Submit your SAR and, if requested, your tax forms to the financial aid office. Contact each office to make certain that your application is complete. Find out what else you need to do to establish and maintain your eligibility for financial aid.
- Keep copies of everything you submit to the financial aid office.
- If you have not received your SAR four weeks after sending in your FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243.

April

- Watch the mail for college acceptance and financial aid award letters. Compare the financial aid awards that you receive.
- Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline (you may lose your spot if not done on time).
- Check with the college you've chosen about the details of signing and returning financial aid award letters.
- Notify the other schools that you will not be attending (a courtesy to the college).
- Watch for important deadlines (housing, financial aid, etc.) at your chosen college.

May

- Take AP examinations. These are given in high schools nationwide.
- Finalize summer school or summer job plans.