Senior Year

This is a big year for you. Be sure to avoid senioritis and to keep working hard. Remember, colleges will look at your fall and spring semester grades. Also this year, be sure to keep talking to your guidance counselor, try to take challenging classes, save your money, and be sure to fill out the CSS/PROFILE and FAFSA as soon as you can, and have fun!

September:
- Check your transcripts to make sure you have all the credits you need to get into the college(s) that interests you.
- Register for any standardized tests you plan on taking.
- Look over your list of colleges and make sure that they still satisfy your requirements. It’s not uncommon for students’ goals to change.
- Make sure that you meet all of the requirements for the schools you’d like to apply to and double-check deadlines.
- Give out recommendation forms to teachers and counselors. Be sure to also include stamped, college-addressed envelopes and that your portion of the forms are filled out.
- If you’re applying early decision most deadlines are between October 1 and November 1. Keep this in mind if you plan on applying early.

October:
- Make a final list of schools and keep a file of deadlines and admissions requirements.
- Take the SAT/ACT tests. Have the official scores sent by the testing agencies that have made your final list of schools.
- Get started on admissions essays. Give your essays to others for feedback.

November:
- Submit your college admissions applications! Check them thoroughly! Have someone else review your application can help you check for errors.
- Be sure to consult with your counselor about scholarship opportunities. Work on your applications and mail them according to deadlines.
- Check with the financial aid office of schools you are applying to for specific information and costs for tuition, room & board, and any additional financial aid info they require.

December:
- Make sure your test scores are being sent to the colleges to which you’re applying.
- If you submitted an application for early decision, keep an eye out for a decision letter. Early decision letters usually arrive between December 1 & 31. If you get an acceptance letter, be sure to withdraw any other applications.
- Start thinking about how you’re going to spend summer. It’s a great opportunity to earn extra money and gain work experience.

January:
- Complete and submit your financial aid application and the FAFSA as soon as possible (between Jan 1 – Feb 15). Also be sure to check out other financial aid options. fafsa.ed.gov
- If you don’t already have a good computer, look into purchasing one for college. There tend to be discounts for college students or you can subsidize the cost in your student loans.
- Make sure your parents have completed their income tax forms in anticipation of the financial aid applications.
- Contact the admissions office of the colleges to which you have applied to make sure that your info has been received and you don’t need to send them anything else.
- Keep an eye out for financial aid workshops and seminars.

February:
- If you completed your FAFSA you should receive your Student Aid Report within 4 weeks. Make any corrections and return it to the FAFSA processor.
- Complete scholarship applications.
- Contact the financial aid office of the colleges that you’ve applied to make sure that they have received all of your information.

March – May
- You should hear back from colleges by April 15. Compare acceptance letters, financial aid and scholarship offers.
- When you choose a college you will have to pay a non-refundable admissions deposit to hold your place in the entering freshman class.
- In May take the AP Exams.
- By May 1 you need have decided on a college and notify them of your acceptance. Mail your commitment deposit check.

June:
- Send final transcripts to the school you will be attending.
- Contact the college to find out when fees are due and how much they will cost.
Freshman Year

Now that you’re a freshman, it’s time to get serious about your post-secondary plans.

By starting early, you’ll be better prepared!

☐ Don’t neglect your study habits! Keep up the good work & continue to improve your study skills!
☐ Start a calendar with important dates & deadlines.
☐ Find out about and get involved in extracurricular activities!
☐ If you don’t have one, sign up for a college savings account. If you already have one, be sure to add to your savings regularly!
☐ Talk to guidance counselors, teachers, family members or trusted adults about your plans for college.
☐ Use your Plan of Study to keep track of your courses and grades. Stay focused! Take the most challenging classes you can handle.
☐ Find out about AP and other honors level courses.
☐ Find out about financial aid. There’s so much information online. CollegeBoard.org has a college cost calculator, and fafsa.ed.gov has information on government programs.
☐ Continue to talk to counselors, teachers and other adults about your plans after high school.
☐ Find out about AP and honors level courses for junior year.
☐ Update your college planning file, or start one if you haven’t already.
☐ Continue extracurricular activities, and consider getting a part-time job or doing volunteer work (if you have time!). Remember, admissions officers look for well-rounded students who participate in activities outside of the school day.
☐ Look into participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops and camps with focuses in things such as music, arts, and sciences.
☐ Take the PLAN test if you plan to take the ACT. Ask your school counselor for more information.
☐ If you plan to take the SAT, take the PSAT in October. It’s never too early to start studying/practicing for standardized tests.
☐ Investigate your options for concurrent enrollment next year. This allows you to start earning college credit if you meet certain requirements.
☐ Make a list of why you like different colleges & universities.
☐ Keep reading! Expanding your vocabulary and learning new things will help with many things over the next few years.

Sophomore Year

☐ Keep your grades up! You might have a lot going on this year but remember that your schoolwork is important!
☐ Sign up for a college savings account or continue to add to an existing account.
☐ Find out about Financial Aid! CollegeBoard.org has a college cost calculator and fafsa.ed.gov has information on government programs.
☐ Continue to talk to counselors, teachers and other adults about your plans after high school.
☐ Find out about AP and honors level courses for junior year.
☐ Update your college planning file, or start one if you haven’t already.
☐ Continue extracurricular activities, and consider getting a part-time job or doing volunteer work (if you have time!). Remember, admissions officers look for well-rounded students who participate in activities outside of the school day.
☐ Look into participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops and camps with focuses in things such as music, arts, and sciences.
☐ Take the PLAN test if you plan to take the ACT. Ask your school counselor for more information.
☐ If you plan to take the SAT, take the PSAT in October. It’s never too early to start studying/practicing for standardized tests.
☐ Investigate your options for concurrent enrollment next year. This allows you to start earning college credit if you meet certain requirements.
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Junior Year

☐ Maintaining your grades this year is important, but at the same time you need to make sure that you’re challenging yourself academically.
☐ Now is the time to really focus your career and college research. Share what you find with your family! You’ll be working a lot together over the next few years.
☐ Keep talking to your guidance counselors, teachers, and family about your plans for after college!
☐ Find out about and enroll in AP classes or even concurrent enrollment for senior year.
☐ Find out about Financial Aid! CollegeBoard.org has a college cost calculator and fafsa.ed.gov has information on government programs.
☐ Continue to talk to counselors, teachers and other adults about your plans after high school.
☐ Find out about AP and honors level courses for junior year.
☐ Update your college planning file, or start one if you haven’t already.
☐ Continue extracurricular activities, and consider getting a part-time job or doing volunteer work (if you have time!). Remember, admissions officers look for well-rounded students who participate in activities outside of the school day.
☐ Look into participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops and camps with focuses in things such as music, arts, and sciences.
☐ Take the PLAN test if you plan to take the ACT. Ask your school counselor for more information.
☐ If you plan to take the SAT, take the PSAT in October. It’s never too early to start studying/practicing for standardized tests.
☐ Investigate your options for concurrent enrollment next year. This allows you to start earning college credit if you meet certain requirements.
☐ Make a list of why you like different colleges & universities.
☐ Keep reading! Expanding your vocabulary and learning new things will help with many things over the next few years.

In September register for the PSAT offered in October. It’s great practice and the score will count towards the National Achievement Program.

Start looking at the admissions requirements for the colleges you’re interested in! Be sure to keep track of any additional requirements on top of GPA and test scores. Start a file for college catalogs and other admissions information!

In September register for the PSAT offered in October. It’s great practice and the score will count towards the National Achievement Program.

Don’t neglect your study habits! Keep up the good work & continue to improve your study skills!

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Keep talking to your guidance counselors, teachers, and family about your plans for after college!

Find out about AP and honors level courses for junior year.

Update your college planning file, or start one if you haven’t already.

Continue extracurricular activities, and consider getting a part-time job or doing volunteer work (if you have time!). Remember, admissions officers look for well-rounded students who participate in activities outside of the school day.

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If you plan to take the SAT, take the PSAT in October. It’s never too early to start studying/practicing for standardized tests.

Investigate your options for concurrent enrollment next year. This allows you to start earning college credit if you meet certain requirements.

Make a list of why you like different colleges & universities.

Keep reading! Expanding your vocabulary and learning new things will help with many things over the next few years.

Towards the end of your junior year (April & May), talk to your teachers about writing letters of recommendation for you. Think about what you would like to include in these and politely ask your teachers if they can help.

Over the summer you should consider a part-time job, volunteer work, or an internship.

Between junior & senior years continue to work on your application essays and decide if you’re going to apply to early decision or early action. Be sure to review the application procedures for the colleges you plan to apply to.