

SENIORS

This is a big year for you. Be sure to avoid **senioritis** and keep working hard. Remember, colleges will look at your fall and spring semester grades. Be sure to stay in touch with your college advisor, college liaison, and school counselor. Additionally, try to take challenging classes, **save your money**, complete the FAFSA, and remember to **have fun!**

September:

- ☐ Check your transcripts to make sure you have all the credits you need to get into the college(s) that interest you.
- ☐ Register for any standardized test you plan to take.
- ☐ Look over your list of college 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.
- ☐ Begin applying for scholarships.

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.
- ☐ Get started on admissions essays. **Give your essays to others for feedback.**
- ☐ Complete and submit the FAFSA as soon as possible (beginning October 1).
- ☐ Complete the Residency Determination Service.

November:

- ☐ Submit your college admissions applications! Check them thoroughly! Having 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 each schools' 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 information that is required.

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 & December 31. If you get an acceptance letter, be sure to withdraw any other applications.**
- ☐ Start thinking about how you're going to spend your summer. It's a great opportunity to earn extra money and gain work experience.

January:

- ☐ 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.**
- ☐ Contact the admissions office of the colleges to which you have applied to make sure that all of your information has been received to complete your application file.
- ☐ Keep an eye out for financial aid workshops and seminars.

February:

- ☐ Complete scholarship applications.
- ☐ Contact the financial aid office of the colleges to which you have 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 upon entering the freshman class.
- ☐ In May you will take any AP Exams if applicable.
- ☐ By May 1 you need to have decided on a college and notify them of your acceptance.
- ☐ Mail your commitment and deposit check.

June:

- ☐ Send final transcripts (you can do this through CFNC.org) to the school you will be attending.
- ☐ Contact the college you will be attending to find out when tuition and fees are due and how much it will cost.

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APPLYING FOR COLLEGE

Now that you've got the list of colleges that you're interested in, it is important to begin looking into the application process at the schools in which you plan to apply. It is good to keep in mind that each school may have different requirements and you'll need to make sure you meet each of those.

Here are a few websites that may assist you in any career and college information searches:

- <https://www.cfnc.org>
- <https://commonapp.org>
- <https://www.onetonline.org>
- <http://www.mynextmove.org>
- <http://www.careeronestop.org>
- <https://www.cfnc.org/plan-your-future/>

ACT | SAT

Go ahead and schedule to take the SAT, the ACT, or both. The good thing about these exams is that if you start early, you can take them more than once and YOU get to decide which test may be the best fit for you. However, it is important that you go ahead and schedule to take an exam so that you can begin to prepare for success. For more information about how you can sign up to take these exams please visit:

- <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat>
- <http://www.act.org>

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

As you are completing your college applications the next step you should consider are scholarship opportunities. As a senior in high school there are numerous scholarships that you may be eligible to apply for. Many students believe that they will not be able to go to college based simply on the cost of higher education. What students often don't know is that there are many types of financial aid and scholarship opportunities are only the beginning.

For more information about scholarships please visit:

- <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/>
- <https://nshscounseling.weebly.com/2021-2022-scholarships.html>

STUDY TIPS

Maintaining your grades during your 12th grade year is key as colleges focus a lot of attention on how successful you are this year. Here are a few study tips that may help you to be successful during this crucial time.

1. Take breaks
2. Actively study
3. Manage your time
4. Know what you need to study
5. Choose your study environment wisely

For more specific information about study techniques and how they can be helpful to you, please visit: www.cfnc.org and enter "study techniques" in the search box.



PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Have you considered how you will pay for your college education? There are a few different ways to pay for college, these include savings, scholarships, grants, loans, or other forms of financial aid. Remember, it is wise to plan ahead!

Here are a few websites that may help you begin the planning process for paying for college:

- <https://fafsa.ed.gov>
- <https://www.cfnc.org/pay-for-college/>
- <https://www.cfnc.org/save-for-college/>
- <https://nshscounseling.weebly.com>