

SENIORS: College / Career Calendar and Checklist

AUGUST

- Review your career plans and decide which type of school is right for you.
- Be sure you have passed the required ECA tests. If not, make sure you get remediation.
- Take time to talk about college interests w/parents
- Narrow college list to 3-5 schools
- Continue visiting college campuses
- Plan on taking/retaking SAT/ACT if you need to. Make sure to hit registration deadlines.
- Go to www.fastweb.com or www.scholarships.com to review scholarships available to you
- Make a habit of checking "Counselor Corner" each week!
- Update Academic Resume (keep doing this all year!)
- Make sure you have a specific COLLEGE email if you haven't created one already.

SEPTEMBER

- Attend Senior Parent Night
- Meet with college reps that visit your school (all year!)
- Attend area college fairs
- Make a list of test names, dates, fees, registration deadlines, and college admission deadlines.
- Run for leadership positions and stay involved! NO SENIORITIS!
- Begin asking teachers, guidance counselors, employers, pastors, coaches, or administrators for letters of recommendation to include with your admissions and/or scholarship applications.
- Find out which financial aid and scholarships applications your college choices require and when the forms are due.
- Take advantage of free college applications during "College Go! Week"
- Be sure to request your transcript be sent to schools you are applying to, preferably using E-transcript.

- Meet with school counselor (through October) to answer questions and make sure you meet all graduation requirements.

OCTOBER

- During Fall Break, visit your top school choices if possible. Interview students, faculty, and staff.
- Take SAT or ACT exams if necessary
- Continue working on college applications Review application deadlines and take the appropriate steps to ensure deadlines are met.

NOVEMBER

- Continue scholarship searches
- Finish all college applications
- Take SAT / ACT if registered
- Start researching financial aid options from schools of choice

DECEMBER

- Request a PIN for applying for financial aid for you and your parent by going to www.pin.ed.gov
- Print the FAFSA worksheet available at www.fafsa.ed.gov and begin working on it. DO NOT SUBMIT YOUR FAFSA BEFORE JANUARY 1ST.
- Continue applying for scholarships
- Check to see if 1st trimester transcripts have been received to schools that requested them. Make sure all application materials have been received.
- Visit with students home from college on winter break
- 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

- Complete and submit your FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov Try to submit your FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible.
- KEEP ALL COPIES OF FORMS YOU SUBMIT
- PARENTS: It's helpful to get your income tax returns prepared early –

schools may request them to prove eligibility for financial aid

- Visit the Indiana State financial aid website

FEBRUARY

- Attend a College Goal Sunday event if you need help with your FAFSA. Visit www.collegegoal.org for a list of locations.
- Submit your FAFSA if you have not already done so.
- Rank your finalized list of colleges

MARCH

- If you submitted a FAFSA, you should receive information about how to access your SAR (Student Aid Report) via email within 5-7 days or receive a paper version of your SAR within 3-4 weeks. You can also check the status of your FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov or by calling the Federal Student Aid Information Center at 1-800-433-3243.
- Contact each college financial aid office to make certain your application is complete. Find out if there is anything else you need to do to establish and maintain your financial aid eligibility.
- Keep copies of all forms you submit to the financial aid office.

APRIL

- Watch the mail or your college email account for college acceptance and financial aid award notifications. Compare the financial aid awards you receive.
- Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll.
- Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline.
- Check with the college you've chosen about the details of accepting or declining your financial aid.
- Notify the other schools that you will not be attending.
- Watch for important deadlines at your chosen college (housing, financial aid, etc.)

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MAY

- May 1: Colleges cannot require a deposit or commitment to attend before May 1. By that postmarked date, you should inform every college of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid.
- Send your deposit to one college only
- If you are wait-listed, contact the college. If you will enroll if accepted, let them know your intent and ask how to strengthen your application.
- Take AP exams if necessary
- Finalize summer school or summer job plans.
- Request that your Guidance Office send final transcripts to your college choice.

OTHER TIDBITS:

- Work hard all year! Second and Third trimester grades can affect scholarship eligibility and admission decisions.