



Senior Planning Checklist for Students & Parents

August

- Register to take the Fall ACT.

September

- Begin and maintain a college calendar of all admission and financial aid deadlines.
- Review your transcript in detail and check credits for graduation. Your course selection says volumes about your ability, motivation and maturity. Tempting as it may be, taking an easy course load your senior year sends the wrong message about you to colleges.
- Attend College Night at SCHS.
- Register for ACT as soon as possible whether you are retaking or taking for the first time. The October test date is your best choice.
- If you haven't already, make a list of colleges that interest you and request information from them. Make sure you and your parents are on the same page. Iron out any area of disagreement before the search process gets too far along. Keep a folder on every school in which you are interested.
- Look at application deadlines. Develop a calendar with parents.
- If you haven't already, make plans to visit the colleges of interest to you.
- Consider volunteering or getting involved in a service project. (This can help make you stand out from the crowd in your application.)

October

- Narrow colleges of interest to less than five. Research these thoroughly.
- Attend Catholic College Night at SCHS and SPS College Fair at the University Plaza
- All high-school athletes wishing to compete in Division I or II college sports must register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse. Information about the Clearinghouse can be found in the Guide for the College-Bound Student-Athlete at www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. The Clearinghouse maintains and processes all of the initial-eligibility certifications. See the website for the eligibility standards. If you have further questions about NCAA eligibility, you may call the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse at 877-262-1492.
- Begin preparing applications with great care. MOST institutions recommend

applications for admissions be submitted by Oct.

- Begin requesting teacher recommendations. Again, ask at least 10 school days prior to deadline.
- File early decision or early action applications before Dec 1.
- Begin checking for special scholarship announcements on the Career Center website
- Find out if your colleges have institutional scholarship deadlines by visiting their web sites or reviewing their literature.
- If you are not planning to attend college, see Mrs. Samsinak and begin procedures for other post-high school opportunities.

November/December

- Continue to search and apply for scholarships. Many scholarship deadlines fall on or around Dec 1.
- Be sure to apply for scholarships in time to meet application deadlines.
- Start gathering identity and financial documents necessary to complete FAFSA. Visit FAFSA on the Web for a list of required documents.
- Both student and parent should request a Department of Education PIN number. The PIN serves as an electronic signature for FAFSA on the WEB and significantly reduces processing time. www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Early decision and early action responses should arrive this month. Read the award letter carefully.
- Financial award letters may arrive with the early admissions. If you have questions about the financial aid award, contact the financial aid office directly. Make sure you understand the terms and conditions of the award before making a final commitment.

January

- Parents should file financial aid forms (FAFSA) as soon as possible after Jan 1. Applying early improves the chances of receiving aid from as many resources as possible. Be sure to complete the financial aid application for each college.
- Male students who will be 18 at the time they complete the FAFSA are required to register with Selective Service to be eligible for federal and state aid. (www.sss.gov)
- Continue to apply for scholarships.

February/March

- Avoid Senioritis. Senior grades can be crucial to your admission (including 3rd and 4th quarter grades, especially for those on waiting lists or on the cusp of admissions). All acceptances are conditional until colleges deem your final grades have met their standards.
- Watch deposit deadlines for housing
- Colleges will begin notifying students of admission status and financial aid.
- If financial aid is not adequate, call the specific financial aid office. The first offer is not necessarily firm! Perhaps you can provide special circumstances that exist.
- Participate in Financial aid information nights scheduled by local colleges.
- Many priority financial aid deadlines fall in February. Applications received by the

priority deadline are given the highest consideration.

- The Student Aid Report (SAR) should arrive two to four weeks after the FAFSA is submitted. The Expected Family Contribution (EFC) figure is printed on the front page at the upper right. If the SAR has not been received four weeks after submitting the FAFSA, call 1-800-4-FED-AID. If there are any errors on the SAR, make corrections and mail back immediately. If you provided valid email address, you can view and make corrections online.
- Continue to apply for scholarships. Apply! Apply!
- Begin looking for summer jobs or internships.

April

- April 15th. Most colleges will have notified you by this date.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Hit the books for next month's AP Exams. AP scores will determine how much credit is granted. College credit for AP exams can mean big savings. Do not count on this unless you have first checked the procedures at your institution.

May

- Colleges have an acceptance reply deadline of May 1 (excluding early decision candidates), which you must confirm with an acceptance letter and deposit.
- If you are taking AP exams, make sure scores will be sent to the final-choice college.
- If there is a gap between the cost of attendance and the financial aid offered, families should start pursuing alternative payment methods.
- Complete the semester with good attendance and academic standing
- Make request for final transcript at Commencement Practice

June

- Prepare for final transition to college
- Finalize your housing plans