

COLLEGE PREP TIMELINE

Senior Year

SUMMER

- Develop a list of schools that you will apply to:
 - Reach schools: those you dream of attending but don't think you'll get in or have the money
 - Match schools: those you dream of attending and have a good shot at attending and affording
 - Safety schools: those you are virtually guaranteed admission and will have no problem affording.
- Complete the College Application Worksheet to determine the application requirements for each of your colleges.
- Visit as many colleges as possible
- Talk to your parents and together learn what you should be doing now to finance your education. Start learning about college costs and financial aid. A great resource is the College Scorecard found at <http://collegecost.ed.gov/scorecard/>.
- Register with a free online scholarship search engine
- Set aside money for college from part-time jobs, gifts, or any other source. Saving any amount can make a big difference in what you can afford to pay for college.

AUGUST

- Reevaluate your hooks and continue to frame your high school activities around them.
- Attend presentations by college admissions representatives.
- Do you need your counselor to write a letter of recommendation or complete a Secondary School Report? Do you need your teacher(s) to write letters of recommendation? Find out what you need and make your requests early.
- Call, or visit the website of the college Financial Aid office to determine if there are any school-based scholarships that require an additional application. Be sure to get the scholarship application deadline!
- Go to the Brantley Café on Wednesday to search for scholarships. Do this every two weeks.
- Work on college essays and ask someone to critique them. Make them interesting. Is your Hook mentioned in the essay?
- If you haven't taken the SAT or ACT with Writing, or if you're not pleased with previous scores, sign up immediately. Delaying this test can delay a college's decision about your admissibility. Remember that most colleges will mix and match your highest SAT section scores from multiple test dates, giving you the highest possible combined score. Most colleges will not mix and match ACT section scores from multiple test dates. Register to take the SAT Subject Tests if you need to and have not done so yet.

SEPTEMBER

- Review your college plans with your counselor, identifying the schools to which you will apply. Are you applying to schools appropriate to your abilities, achievements, and goals?
- Complete college applications and submit them to the colleges with appropriate application fees.
- Submit transcript request forms. If necessary, submit the college's "Secondary School Report" (or "Counselor's Report") which you receive as part of the application package, or which you download if you apply online, to your school counselor. Be sure to submit a clearly completed form with your senior resume, senior questionnaire, parent brag sheet, and transcript request form.
- Give recommendation forms or requests to teachers at least one month before the due date. Be sure they're willing to write one for you. Provide them with the name and address of the school(s). Last minute requests generate ill-will. Failure to plan on your part does not constitute an emergency on their part. Some schools may request that sealed letters of recommendation be included with your application. If so, let the teacher know.
- Seriously begin seeking out sources of financial aid.

OCTOBER

- Get inoculated...don't catch senioritis!
- Attend the Seminole State College College Fair
- Make final college visits and schedule interviews.
- What consideration have you given to back-up schools?
- If you have not done so already, send SAT and ACT official score reports to your colleges.
- Refer to your College Application Worksheet or College Admission and Financial Aid Log and be sure that you've completed each step in the admissions process.

- Complete the FAFSA online (use www.fafsa.ed.gov – be sure not to use www.fafsa.com). The FAFSA is the free federal financial aid application, or any financial aid forms required by your college(s).
- Complete the Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) at www.floridastudentfinancialaid.org. This is the application for Bright Futures and all other state funded financial aid programs.
- If your college requires you to complete the CSS Profile as part of the financial aid process, it is available online at <http://profileonline.collegeboard.com> as of October 1.
- Visit the SHS/Guidance/Scholarships page and look for scholarships.

NOVEMBER

- Don't get senioritis!
- Finish all college applications. Procrastinating only increases stress. Delaying your application can jeopardize your chances for admission, financial aid and/or housing.
- Verify that your colleges have received everything you sent them before the due date
- Respond immediately to requests for additional info from college(s)
- Verify that letters of recommendation and transcripts have been sent.
- Request your first college application letter of recommendation by the November deadline.
- Apply for scholarships.

DECEMBER

- FAFSA is due to most colleges and universities.
- Apply for scholarships.

JANUARY

- If your colleges require mid-year reports, request transcripts and notify your counselor.
- Meet with your counselor to review graduation requirements.
- Apply for housing at schools you are considering
- Keep watching for sources of scholarships and be sure to apply!

FEBRUARY

- Check to see if any of your schools of choice have financial aid or housing application deadlines this month. You ALWAYS want to meet the Priority Financial Aid deadline designated by your college.
- Keep watching for sources of scholarships and be sure to apply!

MARCH

- Respond immediately to requests from college(s) admission or financial aid offices
- Keep preparing for AP tests, college credit earned in high school is like getting a scholarship
- Keep watching for sources of scholarships and be sure to apply!

APRIL

- After receiving notifications of acceptance, make your final college decision.
- Notify your school of choice. Inform other schools to which you applied that you do not plan to attend (freeing up a space for someone on the waiting list)
- Financial aid award notices should have arrived by the end of the month. Make final plans for college housing, financial aid, and scholarships
- Keep watching for sources of scholarships and be sure to apply!

MAY

- May 1 is nationally known as the college commitment day. All decisions must be made by this time.
- Notify schools of your decision if you will not be attending. Make room for someone else.
- Take AP Exams
- Take time to write thank-you notes to those who helped you get to this point.
- Keep watching for sources of scholarships and be sure to apply!
- Graduation!

JUNE

- Keep watching for sources of scholarships and be sure to apply!
- Each student will receive two official/sealed transcripts. You will need to pick them up from the Guidance Office and mail them to the appropriate school. After that, all transcripts are \$1.00 each.