

COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE



FALL/SEPTEMBER

- Continue to visit colleges
- Finalize your college list. It is ok to apply to colleges that are more difficult to get in to, but be sure to apply to a few safety schools.
- Take standardized test and have scores sent to your high school and colleges that you are interested in.
- Keep track of deadlines for applications, financial aid, and scholarships. Pay close attention to early decision, early action, and preferred deadlines.
- Ask for letters of recommendations if you have not done so yet. Request a letter of recommendation form from your counselor so he/she can write the best recommendation possible. Please include the college address or specific link with your request, so that the letters can be sent directly to the college.
- Meet with your school counselor to stay on track with graduation requirements. Be sure to give any necessary forms to your counselor well ahead of the deadlines.
- Complete applications for schools you are interested in, proofread, and make extra copies before you send them. Double check that the guidance office has sent necessary materials.
- Continue your scholarship search.
- Save a copy of all applications you send out. You may be able to reuse essays with minor adjustments and you never know when a document might get lost.

OCTOBER

- Submit financial aid forms – the FAFSA is for all students regardless of family's income level.
- Take advantage of college fairs, online college visits, and virtual tours.
- Check your high school transcript for accuracy.

NOVEMBER

- Register for December SAT or ACT if appropriate.
- Don't let your grades slide. Senior slump can be disastrous for admissions chances.
- Continue to research scholarships.
- Submit the FAFSA if not already done. Be sure it is accurate.

DECEMBER - JANUARY

- Act on results of early decision applications – if you are accepted you will have to withdraw your applications from other colleges.

- Follow up on your applications – check with the school to be sure they have received all of your needed information.
- Send mid-year grade reports to colleges that you applied to. Keep working hard in your classes as colleges are still keeping track of your grades.
- Continue to keep track of all deadlines.

FEBRUARY

- Contact colleges that didn't send you a confirmation receipt for your application.
- Talk with AP teachers about registering for AP exams if applicable.

MARCH

- Watch your mail for notifications from colleges – admissions decisions should reach you by March or April and financial aid awards should arrive by the end of April.
- Compare financial aid packages – if you have questions don't hesitate to contact the financial aid office to get more information.
- Prepare for any last standardized tests – AP or CLEP tests.

APRIL

- Keep track of all acceptances, rejections, and waitlists.
- Check out your options if you are put on a waitlist.
- Keep your grades up.
- Notify any colleges that have accepted you, but you have ruled them out. This is a courtesy to other applicants and will help colleges manage their waitlists and extend the correct number of acceptance letters.
- Go to accepted student open houses if offered

MAY

- Make your final college decision – notify all schools of your intent by May 1 and send your deposit to your chosen school. Follow up on financial aid information.
- Complete the enrollment paperwork for the college you will attend.
- Have final transcripts sent to colleges. You can request them at the following link <http://ohvaonlineforms.com/Transcript-Request.html>
- Send thank you letters to everyone who helped you in the application process. Let your mentors and recommenders know the results of your college search.
- Keep on top of procuring student loans. Notify your college if you received any scholarships.