

# College Planning for Seniors

## September

- Request applications and brochures from your target colleges if you haven't already. For more college options, sign up for [FastWeb's College Search](#).
- SAT is offered on several different dates. Visit [sat.collegeboard.org](http://sat.collegeboard.org) to get test dates and registration deadlines.
- ACT is offered on several different dates. Visit [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org) to get test dates and registration deadlines.
- Schedule college interviews with prospective schools.
- Set up a budget for college application costs – they can add up.
- Continue to check with online sources, such as [FastWeb.com](http://FastWeb.com) to find scholarship money.
- Get your applications in order by creating files for your target schools. Make a list of application requirements (essays, transcripts, etc.) and deadlines for each.
- Request letters of recommendation from teachers, advisors, and employers.
- Work on application essays.
- Make an appointment to meet with your school counselor, Mrs. Minns, to discuss your options.

## October

- Talk to your parents about college cost. Decide how much you can afford and explore your options for funding.
- Request transcripts to be sent to your target schools.
- SAT is offered on several different dates. Visit [sat.collegeboard.org](http://sat.collegeboard.org) to get test dates and registration deadlines.
- ACT is offered on several different dates. Visit [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org) to get test dates and registration deadlines.
- Visit [FinAid.org](http://FinAid.org) to learn more about financial aid.
- Start applying for scholarships from private organizations. Check your [FastWeb](#) search results for new scholarships.

## November

- If you are applying for Early Action or Early Decision, get your application in this month.
- Keep copies of all applications and forms sent to colleges.
- Request test scores be sent to colleges.
- SAT is offered on several different dates. Visit [sat.collegeboard.org](http://sat.collegeboard.org) to get test dates and registration deadlines.
- ACT is offered on several different dates. Visit [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org) to get test dates and registration deadlines.
- Continue to apply for scholarships from private organizations. Check your [FastWeb](#) search results for new scholarships.
- **COLLEGE APPLICATION DEADLINE: THANKSGIVING!!!**

## December

- If you missed the Thanksgiving deadline, work on college applications! Many applications are due this month or in early January.
- SAT is offered on several different dates. Visit [sat.collegeboard.org](http://sat.collegeboard.org) to get test dates and registration deadlines.
- ACT is offered on several different dates. Visit [actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org) to get test dates and registration deadlines.
- Continue to apply for scholarships from private organizations. Check your [FastWeb](#) search results for new scholarships.
- Start gathering materials and financial records for the [FAFSA](#), available on January 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **PARENTS:** Plan on filing your taxes and FAFSA in January or early February. The earlier that you file, the more likely you are to get financial assistance.

## January

- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available on January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Check with your prospective colleges about additional financial aid application forms and requirements.
- Send mid-year reports to colleges, if necessary.
- Verify that your applications have been received by colleges.
- Send thank-you notes to your recommendation sources.
- Continue to apply for scholarships from private organizations. Check your FastWeb search results for new scholarships.

## February

- Review the SAR (Student Aid Report) to make sure the information is correct. You should receive it 4-6 weeks after you submit your FAFSA (1-2 weeks if you submit your FAFSA electronically).
- Continue to apply for scholarships from private organizations. Check your FastWeb search results for new scholarships.
- Begin to check regularly with the office and Mrs. Minns for local scholarship opportunities.

## March – April

- Check the mail for admissions letters and financial aid rewards.
- Compare your admissions offers. Unsure of which decision to make? Ask your school counselor, Mrs. Minns, to help you weigh your options.
- Contact the financial aid office if you have any special financial aid circumstances.
- If waitlisted, notify the admissions office if you are still interested.
- Apply for any and all local scholarships that you qualify for. Check with the office and Mrs. Minns for available opportunities.
- Plan your summer internship, job, or program.
- Time for a decision! Most schools ask that you choose your school by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## May

- Notify (in writing) the schools you have decided *not* to attend.
- Make sure you have received the necessary forms for housing, health insurance, financial aid, etc.
- Pursue additional student loan options.
- Notify colleges of any private scholarship awards.

## June – August

- Have your final transcripts sent to your new school.
- For college student-athletes, ask to have your final transcripts sent to the NCAA Eligibility Center.
- Research banking options near your college.
- Double-check any final deadlines for housing, financial aid, etc.
- Set up a projected first-year college budget.