

Contacts

Associations/Organizations

ACA (American Counseling Association)
800-347-6647 / www.counseling.org

ASCA (American School Counselor Association)
800-306-4722 / asca@schoolcounselor.org
www.schoolcounselor.org

The College Board
866-630-9305 / www.collegeboard.com

NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling)
800-822-6285 / info@nacacnet.org
www.nacacnet.org

NASFAA (National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators)
202-785-0453 / web@nasfaa.org
www.nasfaa.org

NCAN (National College Access Network)
202-347-4848 / ncan@collegeaccess.org
www.ncan.org

NSPA (National Scholarship Providers Assoc.)
303-442-2524
www.scholarshipproviders.org

Government

U.S. Dept. of Education
800-USA-LEARN (800-872-5327)
www.ed.gov

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243)
www.Studentaid.gov

FSIAC (Federal Student Aid Information Center)
800-4-FED-AID (800-433-3243)
www.studentaid.gov/help-center/contact

NCES (National Center for Education Statistics)
202-502-7300 / www.nces.ed.gov

Testing

ACT (American College Testing)
319-337-1000 - main
319-337-1270 - registration inquiries
www.actstudent.org

AP (Advanced Placement)
888-CALL-4-AP (888-225-5427)
apexams@info.collegeboard.org
<https://ap.collegeboard.org/>

CLEP (College-Level Examination Program)
800-257-9558 / clep@info.collegeboard.org
<https://clep.collegeboard.org>

PSAT (Preliminary SAT) / NMSQT (National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test)
866-433-7728 / psathelp@info.collegeboard.org
888-477-PSAT - Counselor Hotline
www.collegeboard.com/psat

SAT and SAT (Scholastic Assessment)
Subject Tests 866-756-7346
888-SAT-HELP (888-728-4357) Counselor Hotline
www.sat.collegeboard.org

Financial Aid Information

FinAid
www.finaid.org

International Students
www.nafsa.org/about/about-international-education/financial-aid-undergraduate-international-students

Federal Student Aid for Counselors
<https://financialaidtoolkit.ed.gov/tk/>

Federal Student Aid for Students
<https://studentaid.gov/>

Information for Financial Aid Professionals
<https://fsapartners.ed.gov/knowledge-center>

Mapping Your Future
www.mappingyourfuture.org

NASFAA (National Association of Financial Aid Administrators)
www.nasfaa.org

NACAC (National Association for College Admission Counseling)
www.nacacnet.org

FTC Project Scholarship Scam
www.ftc.gov/scholarshipscams

U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov/higher-education

Guide to Federal Student Aid
www.studentaid.gov

Financial Aid Calculators
www.finaid.org/calculators

Research

ERIC (Education Resources Information Center)
<https://eric.ed.gov/>

College Insight
www.collegeinsight.org

National Center for Education Statistics
www.nces.ed.gov

Security on Campus
www2.ed.gov/admins/lead/safety/campus.html

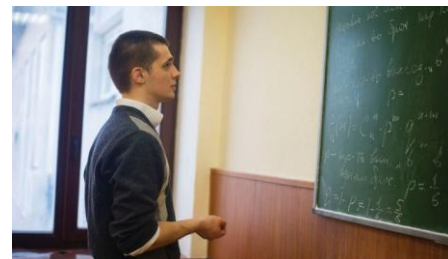
Selective Service System
www.sss.gov

Social Security Administration
www.ssa.gov

Student Gateway to U.S. Government
www.usa.gov/education

TRIO Programs
www.ed.gov/about/ed-offices/ope/trio

U.S. Department of Education
www.ed.gov



Web Resources

College Admissions

Educational Opportunity
www.justice.gov/crt/educational-opportunities-section

NACAC College Fairs
www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs/

Common Application
www.commonapp.org

FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
<https://studentaid.gov/>

Federal Student Aid Estimator
<https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/>

Job Corps
www.jobcorps.gov

Resources by State
www.finaid.org/state

Student Tax Info
www.irs.gov/individuals/students

Choosing a Major/Career

Bureau of Labor Statistics
www.bls.gov/

Occupational Outlook Handbook
www.bls.gov/ooh/

Higher Ed News

Higher Education Watch
www.newamerica.org/higher-education/higher-ed-watch/



College Readiness: Calendar for Counselors and Students

August

- Put together a calendar of upcoming local college fairs.
- Encourage seniors to begin planning college visits.
- Hold college essay writing workshops.

September

- Remind sophomores to register for the PSAT. Help them find tutors and practice tests.
- Meet with juniors about schools that interest them.
- Continue to meet with seniors regarding their college applications.
- Encourage seniors to begin asking for letters of recommendation.
- Help seniors determine if they need to retake standardized tests.
- Remind seniors to begin collecting the documents they'll need to complete the FAFSA.

October

- Encourage seniors to complete and submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after 10/1.
- Juniors should take the ACT and/or SAT.
- Continue to meet with juniors about schools and majors that interest them.
- Proofread college essays and personal statements for seniors.

November

- Provide juniors with personality profile questionnaires to help them learn about their preferences.
- Seniors should take or retake the SAT, if necessary.
- Seniors should submit preliminary high school transcripts to schools they are considering.
- Help seniors search and apply for private scholarship funds.

December

- Meet with juniors about their PSAT scores. Help them find study groups, tutors and other resources to improve their scores.

January

- Juniors should begin finding scholarships and applying.
- Juniors taking the ACT need to register and study.

February

- February is Financial Aid Awareness Month.
- Juniors should register and prepare for the SAT and any other standardized or entrance exams required by the school of interest.
- Help juniors narrow down their schools of interest.
- Help seniors continue to find and apply for scholarships.
- High school transcripts should be sent to the colleges seniors are considering.
- Seniors should have all applications submitted, as March is the typical deadline for many schools for the following fall semester.

March

- Encourage juniors to look for summer opportunities such as volunteer work or a part-time job.
- Encourage seniors to stay focused on their studies and keep their grades up.
- Seniors should notify financial aid offices regarding any private scholarships they've won.

April

- Juniors should complete the ACT exam.
- Help seniors compare financial aid packages and determine if they are sufficient for the student to attend the school of their choice, or if they will need to apply for additional financial aid such as education loans from private lenders.

May

- Meet with juniors to help them determine the best classes to take in their senior year.
- Assist juniors with finding opportunities to earn college credit.
- Seniors should make their final decision on the school they want to attend in the fall and make their enrollment/housing deposit.
- Encourage seniors to take any Advance Placement exams that your college may offer.
- Help seniors ensure sure any college credits they have earned transfer to their selected school.

Planning Ahead: A Calendar for High School Seniors

Hopefully, you have done many of the items from the junior year calendar. If you have not, it is okay – you still have plenty of time. Your senior year will simply be a little busier than you may have intended.

The following calendar is a suggested guideline; be sure and get actual dates and times from your high school counselors.

August

- Make a folder for each of the colleges that interest you and fill them with print pieces, financial aid information, and application requirements and deadlines.
- Choose when you would like to visit each school that interests you
- Start drafting your personal statement or essay for each college.

September

- Decide to whom you wish to send letters of recommendation. These may be from your favorite teachers, coaches, local representatives, employers and any alumni from the schools that interest you.
- Remain in contact with the admissions representatives from the colleges that interest you.
- Continue to meet with your guidance counselor regarding college applications and to determine if you need to take or retake any standardized tests.
- Complete the admission forms for each of your colleges of interest
- Begin collecting documents you will need to file your FAFSA starting October 1.

October

- Complete and submit the FAFSA as soon as possible after October 1. Contact 1-800-4-FED-AID if you have questions.
- If you have not decided on a school, continue attending College Nights or College Fairs at your school or in your community to learn more about various schools.
- Finish your essays or personal statements and make sure you have a teacher proofread them.
- Finalize dates to visit and take tours of schools and campuses.
- Provide addressed, stamped envelopes to anyone who has agreed to write you a letter of recommendation. Be sure and tell them when the letters are due. Write them a thank you letter!
- Take or retake the ACT, if necessary.

November

- Take or retake the SAT, if necessary.
- Submit "preliminary high school transcripts" of your grades so far to schools you are considering.
- Continue searching and applying for private scholarship funds.
- Fill out any additional financial aid forms such as the CSS Profile Form that your college requires.

December

- Check with the colleges to which you've applied to determine the status of your application.

January / February

- February is Financial Aid Awareness Month so look for any additional information regarding financial aid.
- Make sure your high school sends your mid-term transcript to the colleges you are still considering.
- Make sure all your applications are submitted. March is the typical deadline for many schools for the following fall semester.

March

- Expect to receive the Student Aid Report (SAR) 4-6 weeks after submitting the FAFSA and review the SAR for accuracy.
- Keep focused on your studies and keep your grades up. If you fall below a college's standards you can lose your acceptance and any scholarships you have been awarded.
- Notify your financial aid offices regarding any private scholarships you have won.

April

- Compare your financial aid packages and determine if they are sufficient for the school of your choice. If you need to apply for additional financial aid, you might consider education loans from private lenders.
- Log into the college portal and accept your award letters to the schools you are still considering.

May

- Make your final decision on the school you want to attend in the fall and make your enrollment/housing deposit. Remember, if you end up not liking your chosen school, you can always transfer.
- Send thank you notes to teachers, guidance counselors and anyone who sent a letter of recommendation through this process.
- If you qualify, take any Advance Placement exams that your college may offer.
- Make sure any college credits you have earned transfer to your selected school.

Summer Months before College

- Have your high school send your final transcript to your selected college.
- Learn to:
Do laundry.
Use several different kinds of microwave ovens.
Use a fire extinguisher.
Do other life skills you and your parents feel you should have to live independently.
- Start working to save for college expenses.

Then, enjoy the summer!