

## Suggested Senior College Planning Timeline

### August

- VISIT COLLEGES!
- Make sure you are taking challenging courses your senior year.
- See your counselor to discuss colleges.
- Complete a Net Price Calculator (go to financial aid website at any college).
- Narrow down your college list to 6-8 colleges.
- Send ACT/SAT scores directly to colleges.
- Familiarize yourself with Naviance/Family Connection's Colleges tab.
- Create an account on [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org).
- Make a chart with all deadlines for your college applications and financial aid then FOLLOW THEM!!!

### September

- Continue to visit colleges and schedule interviews if allowed.
- Register for ACT/SAT if not satisfied with your current score.
- Register for SAT Subject tests if college recommends or requires them.
- Sign up for college representative meetings in the Guidance Office.
- Work on college application essays and have an English teacher review them with you.
- If your college applications require recommendation letters, ask 2-3 teachers to write on your behalf then request these recommendations through Naviance/Family Connection. Please allow teachers at least 2 weeks to complete your recommendation letter. Provide a resume and any special instructions. Write thank you letters to the teachers afterwards and keep the teachers updated on your college decisions.
- Attend Westerville City Schools Financial Aid Night on Wed., Sept. 21 at North High School.
- Get an early financial aid estimate at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/estimate>.
- Attend the Suburban College Fair on Sun., September 25 from 1-3:30 p.m. at Otterbein Univ.
- Search for scholarship opportunities through Naviance/Family Connection, fastweb.com, cappex.org and The Columbus Foundation.

### October

- Sign up for college representative meetings in the Guidance Office.
- Apply now for Early Action or Early Decision. Your other applications are also welcomed early. Keep a copy for yourself. **Please be aware of deadlines. If applying early, deadlines will be around Nov. 1.**
- Request official transcripts at least 2 weeks before you need them sent.
- Create an FSA ID for student and one parent <https://fsaid.ed.gov/>.
- Complete the FAFSA at <https://fafsa.gov/> as soon as possible after October 1, 2016. Students should select the application for the 2017-2018 academic year and students and parents should use 2015 tax information.
- After submitting your FAFSA for financial aid, you will receive an SAR (Student Aid Report) within four weeks. Review this document for accuracy very carefully.
- If required by college, fill in the CSS/Financial Aid Profile at <http://css.collegeboard.org/> (mostly for private colleges that meet 100% of demonstrated need).

\*\*\*\*\* Make sure all ACT/SAT scores are sent directly to your college from the testing center

### November

- If necessary, register for the December ACT/SAT. Although you can take tests after December, a lot of colleges consider December to be the last test seniors can take. **Please be aware of the deadlines.**
- Keep up grades during senior year.
- Continue completing applications and following deadlines. GOAL: Have all applications completed by Thanksgiving, if you are not applying early.

### December

- See your counselor to discuss any updates to your college list.

### January

- Keep working hard in your classes.
- Submit Westerville City School's Community Scholarships applications.
- Request mid-year transcripts (if colleges you've applied to require this).

### February

- Monitor all of your college applications and keep track of your notifications and deadlines.
- Continue to complete outside scholarship applications.

### March

- Stay focused and keep studying - only a few more months to go. Please remember colleges have the right to rescind your admission and/or scholarships if your final grades do not reflect the student they admitted ;)
- Review financial aid packages and explore loan options. If something has changed in your family's financial situation, you will need to contact each college and fill out a Special Consideration Form.

### April

- You should have all of your college acceptances by April 1. Review your college options and financial aid packages very carefully as you make your final decisions. You will need to make a decision by May 1.
- Prepare for AP and IB exams.

### May

- By May 1, decide on the one college that you will attend and send your tuition deposit to that college.
- Notify the other colleges that accepted you that you will not be attending. Your spot may go to someone else who wants it.
- AP and IB Exams
- Complete your Senior Graduation Survey in Naviance/Family Connection to indicate where you want your final high school transcript to go.