

Senior Year Countdown to College

September

- Register to take the SAT Reasoning and/or Subject Tests via www.collegeboard.com or the ACT at www.actstudent.org
- Finalize your list of potential schools and make sure you have the necessary applications and deadlines for completion. College application deadlines can range from November to April. If you are still compiling a list of prospective schools, meet with the guidance counselor, attend college fairs, visit college campuses and surf the Internet for college websites.
- Get letters of recommendation from your teachers, and possibly your employers or coaches.
- Work on your activity resume.

October

- Complete and submit your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on or soon after October 1st. Parents will need to have their tax returns, W-2 forms, bank statements, and records of benefits from the Social Security Administration, Department of Veteran's Affairs, and other agencies in order to complete the FAFSA.
- Attend the VSAC "Paying for College" night.
- Search for community based educational grants, private scholarships and endowments.
- Take the SAT and/or ACT. Make sure to send your scores to the colleges to which you are applying or have applied.
- Work on your essay.

November

- Obtain Financial aid information from each college's financial aid office and note the required documents and deadlines for filing.
- Ask your English teacher to review your application essay(s).

December

- Finalize and submit applications for admission. As a general rule, the sooner you apply, the better your chances for admission.

January

- Apply for Scholarships from VSAC.

February

- Check with the Guidance Department to make sure your mid-year grades have been sent to the colleges to which you have applied.
- Fill out and submit the financial aid forms required by the colleges where your applications have been sent.

March

- Review your SAR (Student Aid Report, which is based upon your FAFSA information) for accuracy and make any necessary changes.
- Forward medical forms to each school requiring a physical exam as a condition of admission.
- Apply for local scholarships.
- Start looking for the perfect summer job!

April

- Watch the mail for college acceptance letters and financial aid award letters to determine the college and package that best meets your needs.
- Compare financial aid award letters received and watch for response deadlines. You may be required to sign and return a copy of your financial aid award letter to receive financial aid.
- If you have been placed on a waiting list by a college, you may want to consider calling the admissions office to see how you may strengthen your application.

May

- Select and notify the college of choice. Also, be sure to notify the colleges you decide not to attend.
- Find out when your college is hosting its orientation session and make plans to attend. Orientation is a great way to meet classmates and faculty and gives you time to get to know the campus.

June

- Notify your college about any outside scholarships, grants, or other funding you have been awarded.
- Ask the Guidance Department to send your final transcript to your college.