

# College Planning Calendar for Seniors



## Fall

### September

- Narrow your list of colleges to five to 10. Meet with a counselor about them and, if you've not yet done so, download college applications and financial aid forms. Plan to visit as many of these colleges as possible.
- Create a master list or calendar that includes:
  - Tests you'll take and their fees, dates and registration deadlines
  - College application due dates
  - Scholarship Deadlines
  - Other materials you'll need (recommendations, transcripts, etc.)
  - Your high school's own application processing deadlines
- If you need to retake your SAT or ACT tests in October or November this is the time to register!
- Keep doing your best in school. Colleges do care about your senior grades so don't slack off yet, you are almost there!

### October

- Try to finalize your college choices.
- Prepare Early Decision, Early Action or rolling admissions applications as soon as possible.
- Ask for counselor or teacher recommendations if you need them. Give each teacher or counselor an outline of your academic record and your extracurricular activities. For each recommendation, provide a stamped, addressed envelope and any college forms required.
- If you're submitting essays, write first drafts and ask teachers and others to read them. If you're applying for Early Decision, finish the essays for that application now.
- If you can't afford application or test fees, a counselor can help you request a fee waiver.
- Start looking for scholarships! Unfortunately undocumented and DACA students are not eligible for federal or state financial aid but there are a lot of private scholarships out there! All of them have different deadlines and requirements, so now is the time to start searching! Got to [www.ct4adream.org](http://www.ct4adream.org) for more information.

### November

- Nov. 1-15: For Early Decision admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications between these dates.
- Complete at least one college application by Thanksgiving.
- Look at the Common Application and see if any of the schools you are applying to use it. If so start filling it out! It allows you to fill out one application for many different schools. That means less work for you and your counselor!

# Winter

## December

- Your college will want to see 1<sup>st</sup> semester senior grades so make sure you continue to do your best. No slacking off yet!
- Continue to be engaged in your school and your community. Do some volunteer work, look for an internship, or help out at your school.
- Try to visit the school or schools that you are most interested in one last time to help you make a decision
- Ask your counselor for help in the scholarship search. They may have some resources about local scholarships that we do not know about!

## January/ February

- If you apply to colleges online, be sure to have your high school send a transcript – it goes to colleges separately by mail.
- Fill out Financial Aid forms for your school. The FAFSA opens up on January 1<sup>st</sup>. Unfortunately, neither undocumented nor DACA students qualify for federal aid. However, DACA students can fill out the FAFSA to get their student aid report which shows schools how much need you have. All students can fill out the CSS profile, which helps private colleges determine how much need you have. See more information about undocumented students and financial aid at [www.ct4adream.org](http://www.ct4adream.org)
- If you are having trouble with an application because of your status call the school admissions office and ask them for help. If you do not feel comfortable calling, have your counselor call on your behalf.

# Spring

## March/April

- You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. If you've not done so yet, visit your final college before accepting. As soon as you decide, notify your counselor of your choice.
- Ask your counselor for help if you do not understand the financial aid given by your school or if the school is classifying you as an international student. Check out [www.ct4adream.org](http://www.ct4adream.org) as well!

## May

- May 1: Colleges cannot require a deposit or commitment to attend before May 1. By that postmarked date, you must inform every college of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid. (Questions? Talk to your counselor.)
- Send your deposit to one college only.
- Wait-listed by a college? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask whether funds will be available if you're accepted.
- Work with a counselor to resolve any admissions or financial aid problems.