

Senior Planning

August/September

1. Finalize your list of reasonable college choices and note the deadlines for submitting your application. The number of schools on this list should be around 5-6.
 - You may consider keeping a calendar or file for each school on your list
 - Your list should include at least one “long shot”, one “target”, and one “safe school”.
2. Once you have narrowed down the list, begin reviewing the applications and essays.
 - You may write or call a college’s admission’s office at any time to request materials or ask questions. Remember, the staff of admissions offices are there to help make sure you have everything taken care of, don’t be afraid to ask them for help.
3. Register for the October ACT or the November ACT.
 - Find out what your schools require for admission. Some will require the ACT while others will require the SAT.
 - ACT Registration - <http://www.act.org>
 - SAT Registration - <http://www.collegeboard.org>
 - be sure you know the codes for your selected colleges so your scores can automatically be sent to them
4. Begin work on application essays
 - make sure you follow the directions provided by the college/university and present yourself in a well thought out, honest, neat, and grammatically correct manner
5. The grades you make this semester will be significant in the way college admissions committees view your academic seriousness. Your first semester grades will be the last ones they see before deciding whether to admit you to their school.
6. Decide how you will actually apply: electronically or on paper.
7. Ask or remind teachers to write your college recommendations. Give each teacher all the necessary materials to write your recommendations at least **one two weeks before they are due.**
8. Begin making plans to visit the schools to whom you are applying if you can. Attend classes, spend the night in a residence hall, eat on campus.
 - Use your college visiting days well. PVCS allows a maximum of 2 days which will be excused if pre-approved. Bring a letter from the college for proof of your visit.
 - Attending either a Senior Days or Welcome Days event at Welch College will not count towards your 2 days, if pre-approved. Be sure to bring a letter from Welch College as proof of your visit.

9. Make plans to research the location of local college fairs and financial aid workshops.
10. Make the commitment to finish strong! Your senior year matters.

October

1. **Please do not push deadlines** It is to your advantage to file your application early. Most colleges admit that early applications receive more attention because they demonstrate the student's sincere interest in a school.
2. If you are applying for financial aid, check on what forms the college will require.
 - if you would like to be nominated for a scholarship at the college you are applying, please let your high school administrator know
3. Complete a Transcript Request form for each application you submit. Your transcript includes ACT and SAT scores, your grades and the school profile which explains the grading system. The college to which you are applying may require the test scores come directly from ACT/SAT.
4. If you wish to retake the ACT/SAT be sure to register by the appropriate deadline.
5. Continue visiting colleges

November

1. If you have not completed the required teacher recommendations for your college application, be sure to complete that as soon as possible.
 - Please allow at least 2 weeks to complete a recommendation
 - Please provide an addressed and stamped envelope with the appropriate college forms and a copy of your senior data sheet attached.

December

1. Although many colleges have deadlines later than January 1, this month remains the best time for students to send their applications off. Leaving applications until after winter break leads to time conflicts and a stressful vacation.
2. All college applications and transcript requests which need to be sent out before the holidays are due in the high school administrator's office by the first week in December.
3. Any Transcript Request submitted after this date may be sent out in January. Please remember, failure to plan on your part does not constitute an emergency on our part.

4. Prepare and do well on your mid-year exams - they matter!
5. Request Mid-Year transcripts to be mailed to the college to which you are applying.

January

1. Complete and file your FAFSA as soon as possible.
 - the FAFSA is the federal financial form, needed for both public and private schools.
 - Remember, the HOPE Lottery Scholarship requires the FAFSA.
 - Some aid is distributed on a first come, first served basis.
 - <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>
2. If you haven't already done so, begin researching scholarship possibilities
 - contact the financial aid offices of the colleges you have applied to to find out what your options are

February

1. If you haven't already done so, visit schools to which you have applied.
2. Continue researching for scholarship possibilities.

April

1. By April 15, you should hear from all colleges. Use the two weeks before May 1 to make your final decision.
2. Notify all colleges which have accepted you of your final decision.
3. Notify colleges who have put you on their waiting list if you wish to remain on it.
4. **Don't catch Senioritis! All college acceptances are *conditional* pending receipt of final grades in June.**

May

1. Reply to the college you choose. Do not place a deposit with more than one college: it is unethical and you can be dropped by both colleges if discovered.
2. Fill out a **Final Transcript Request Form** for the college you will attend. You must make this request in writing to release your transcript.
3. Contact the college to find out what your next steps are with regards to:

- registering for Freshman Orientation
- registering for classes
- housing arrangements
- other necessary information

4. GRADUATE!!!!