

## A SENIOR'S GUIDE TO PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

### **SEPTEMBER**

- ✓ Meet with Guidance Counselor to review high school transcripts and evaluate college choices.
- ✓ Request application material for admissions and financial aid from schools to which you intend to apply.
- ✓ Early decision applications may be due.
- ✓ Register to take the ACT in October.

### **OCTOBER**

- ✓ Attend college and career fairs at your high school or in your area.
- ✓ Be aware of admission and financial aid application deadlines and meet them.
- ✓ Arrange interviews and campus tours at colleges.
- ✓ Request letters of recommendation from teachers, guidance counselors and employees.
- ✓ Devote time, energy and thought to writing any required essays.
- ✓ Take the October ACT.

### **NOVEMBER**

- ✓ Work on college application forms.
- ✓ Start searching for private scholarships.
- ✓ Meet scholarship application deadline with your college or university.
- ✓ Register for the December ACT.

### **DECEMBER**

- ✓ Obtain a current Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Do not complete until after January 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ✓ Look for letter from Guidance Counselor with information regarding FAFSA. Letter will be sent during Christmas Break.
- ✓ Take the December ACT.

### **JANUARY**

- ✓ Collect family tax information for the previous year.
- ✓ Complete and submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- ✓ Confirm that all school admissions application materials have been sent on schedule.
- ✓ Register for the February ACT.

### **February**

- ✓ Review your FAFSA/Student Aid Report (SAR) for accuracy.
- ✓ If you applied for early decision your responses should be coming to you.
- ✓ Take the ACT if needed.

### **March**

- ✓ Promptly respond to any requests from the college Admissions or Financial Aid offices.
- ✓ Schools begin to notify students of financial aid awards.
- ✓ Notify the Financial Aid office of any outside scholarships or grants that you receive.
- ✓ Continue to seek and apply for private scholarships.
- ✓ Register for the April ACT if you plan to take it.

### **April**

- ✓ Make your final decision on which college you will attend.
- ✓ Review your financial aid award letter: be sure you understand the conditions that apply to each type of aid offered.
- ✓ If you need a Federal Stafford Loan (Subsidized or Unsubsidized), or Federal Parent Loan (PLUS), contact a lender.
- ✓ Take the ACT if needed.

### **May**

- ✓ Notify the offices of Admissions and Financial Aid at the colleges that you decided not to attend.
- ✓ Return your award letter to the college you are going to attend.
- ✓ Register for the ACT if needed.
- ✓ GRADUATION!!! CONGRATULATIONS!!!

### **June/July/August**

- ✓ Respond to any request from your college.
- ✓ Make sure your housing and meal plan are in place.
- ✓ Find out when payment of school charges(such as tuition, fees, and room and board) are due.
- ✓ Apply for a summer job.
- ✓ Make a plan for saving a portion of your summer earnings.
- ✓ Take the JUNE ACT if needed.
- ✓ Attend Freshman Orientation.