

## SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

### August

- Check your course list one more time. Are you missing credits required by schools you're applying to?
- Plan to work really hard this term because your first-quarter or first-semester grades will be included on your transcript.
- Ask colleges to send you their application materials.
- Continue researching scholarships. Begin assembling documents for aid applications.
- Give out recommendation forms and stamped envelopes addressed to the colleges' admissions offices.
- If you plan to apply for early decision, consider what effect that choice could have on financial aid.
- Review your final list of colleges with your counselor.
- As you schedule visits with admissions and financial-aid advisers, think about also visiting with faculty and students in the department that interests you.
- Register for the fall ACT and/or SAT I and SAT II.

### September and October

- Request that your transcripts be sent to colleges.
- Mail early-action or early-decision applications.
- Take any tests for which you are registered. Have your test results sent to schools.

### November

- Take the SAT II: Language Test With Listening (for French, German, Japanese, Spanish, and English proficiency) if required by your colleges.
- Start writing your essays. If you applied early decision, notify the college about honors you've received since you submitted your application, and ask your high school to send out your most recent transcript.

### December

- Mail applications, or turn them in at school.
- If you applied early and you were accepted, withdraw your applications from other schools.
- Start working with your parents on the Free Application for Federal Student Aid form.

Apply at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), or get forms from your high school or by calling (800) 433-3243.

### January

- File all federal financial-aid forms, and apply for state aid.
- Ask your school to send midyear grade reports to your colleges.
- Verify that all your application materials have been sent out.

### February

- Check with schools to make sure that they have the documentation they require.

### March and April

- Decision letters begin arriving. Don't give in to "senioritis." Your admission is contingent upon your final grades.
- Evaluate your financial-aid offers. You'll have to make a decision about where to go and notify your college by May 1st, then let other schools know you won't be coming.

### May and summer

- Have your high school send your final transcript to the college you will be attending.
- Know when tuition and room and board payments are due.
- Notify the financial-aid office if there have been any changes in your family's circumstances that might make you eligible for additional aid. Perhaps one of your parents was laid off, or there was a major illness in the family.