

12th – College Prep Timeline

Fall Semester:

- Keep Studying! You want to avoid “senioritis” – a drop in motivation and, consequently grades, that is sometimes experienced by seniors.
- Talk to your counselor about the possibility for concurrent enrollment.
- Save your money! It’s a good idea to start planning for those unexpected costs of college.
- Check your high school transcripts to make sure you have all the credits you need to get into the colleges that interest you.
- Check your college transcripts to make sure there are no errors.
- Continue taking the ACT, SAT, or Compass exams.
- Take another look at your list of colleges, and make sure they still satisfy your requirements. It is not uncommon for students’ goals to change.
- Make sure you meet the requirements (including any transcript requirements) for all the colleges to which you want to apply. Double-check the deadlines.
- Give any recommendation forms to the appropriate teachers or counselors with stamped, college-addressed envelopes, making certain that your portions of the forms are filled out completely and accurately.
- Most early decision and early action applications are due between October 1 and December 1.
- Make a final list of schools that interest you and keep a file of deadlines and required admission items for each school. Many students have a “dream school” and a “safety school” as well as two or three others.
- Get started on any essays to be included with your applications. Give your essays to others for feedback.
- Submit your college applications.
- Consult with your guidance counselor about scholarship opportunities. Not all scholarships are for top students and athletes. There may be a perfect scholarship for you. It is worth doing a little research.
- Work on your scholarship applications and mail according to the deadlines.

- Check with the financial aid office of the colleges you are applying to for specific information on scholarships and costs for tuition, fees, room and board, and any additional financial aid info they require.
- What your mailbox if you submitted an early decision application. Early decision replies usually arrive between December 1 and 31. If you do get an acceptance, you should withdraw any other applications.
- Request the counseling office send your transcript, test scores, and shot record to the colleges you have been applying to.

Spring semester:

- Get your PIN number. This can be done at pin.ed.gov. You and your parents will need a PIN number. This is how you will electronically sign your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).
- You and your parents will need to complete your taxes as soon as possible so you will be ready to complete your FAFSA.
- Complete and submit your FAFSA as soon as possible. The website is FAFSA.ed.gov.
- Check for other financial aid options.
- Complete and submit the Youuniversal application.
- Complete your scholarship applications.
- Contact the financial aid office of the college to which you have applied to make sure your information has been received, and that they have everything they need from you.
- Compare your acceptance letters, financial aid, and scholarship offers. These are all important things to consider when choosing a college.
- Make the decision on where you will be attending college in the fall.
- Have the high school send your final transcript to the college of your choice.
- Contact your college to determine when fees for tuition, room and board are due, and how much they will cost.
- Check you high school and college transcripts to make sure there are no errors.