

College Planning Calendar • JUNIOR YEAR

ADMISSION & FINANCIAL AID TIMETABLE

Summer

- Talk with your parents about college.
- Review general literature (books, magazine articles, etc.) about college options. Explore the Internet.
- Visit college campuses, if possible, as part of family vacation or on trips with friends.
- Talk with your parents about college cost. How much help will they be able to provide and in what form? Will student or parent loans be an issue?
- Review colleges that interest you **regardless of cost**. Don't limit your options at this early stage based upon price.

September

- Start your **Personal College Planner** (see pg. 34); what do I want in a college and why?
- Set up **FAFSA4Caster** account, to estimate your EFC and what financial aid may be available next year (www.fafsa4casater.ed.gov)

Oct./Nov.

- Attend college presentations at school and regional college fairs.
- Check with guidance office/look into courses for college credit, i.e. Advanced Placement, Tech Prep, Early Start, etc.
- Use the computer-based college searches available in most high school guidance offices and on the Internet at such sites as **www.collegeboard.com** (College Matchmaker) to find colleges that meet your needs.

Dec./Jan.

- Meet with guidance counselor; review how PSAT results/course work match up with requirements of colleges of interest.
- Start your "shopping list" of colleges and universities.
- Look through college publications and match to the things you want a college to have in your Personal College Planner.
- Attend high school financial aid night with your parents and start tracking your personal financial information.
- Get copies of **FAFSA** and **PROFILE** (if appropriate); see what information and records will be needed so you can file for financial aid next year.
- Start exploring scholarship sources.

Feb./March

- Register for college entrance exams (SAT, ACT, etc.).
- Establish preliminary college choices; no more than 5 to 10 schools based on your Personal College Planner.
- Order your free copy of **The Financial Aid Tool Kit** at www.famemaine.com. At your guidance office, get your free copy of **Funding Education Beyond High School – The Guide to Federal Student Aid**, or order it through the Federal Student Aid Information Center– **1-800-4-FEDAID (1-800-433-3243)** or on line at www.studentaid.ed.gov.
- Register for PrepMe and begin SAT Prep Course.

April

- Narrow college choices to top 3 - 5 schools, if you can.
- Review college choices with your parents and your guidance counselor to be sure they are realistic. Start arranging for summer college visits with your high school and parents.
- Choose senior year courses carefully and discuss them with your parents and your guidance counselor.
- If you are looking at specific colleges write to get copies of their financial aid guides.

May/June/ Summer

- Take SAT and/or ACT exams.
- Take AP exams if appropriate.
- Get several informal transcripts that you can take along on any college visits.