

College Planning Calendar • SENIOR YEAR

ADMISSION & FINANCIAL AID TIMETABLE

- Make initial visits to colleges.
- Obtain the most current college catalogs and admission applications from those schools.
- Update your information on FAFSA4caster.ed.gov for estimated EFC
- Discuss education costs with your parents and determine your family's Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) by using the FAFSA4caster or other college aid calculator. You can find one at www.finaid.com, or use college guides and viewbooks.

Summer

- Consider Early Decision, Early Action or Early Notification options.
- Sign up for SATs, ACTs or any other tests as necessary.
- Ask teachers, counselors, employers, etc. for letters of recommendation. Include any required forms, along with a stamped, addressed envelope.
- Arrange for college admissions interviews, if necessary.
- Register for College Scholarship Service (CSS) Financial Aid **PROFILE**, if necessary.

September

- Attend regional college fair or admissions visits at school as appropriate.
- Do admissions essays.
- Check with guidance counselor; see what you need to meet college deadlines for school forms, etc.
- Send in Early Decision application, if applicable.
- If applying for Early Decision, submit the early financial aid form the college requires. E.D. admission and financial aid decisions are made at the same time.

Oct./Nov.

- Complete and mail all applications no later than December 15th. **Early is MUCH better than late!**
- Check with your guidance office to see that they have all required forms and that mid-year grades will be reported.
- Attend a regional College Goal Sunday for assistance in completing the FAFSA (January 27, 2008) or a local financial aid night with parent(s). Request **Personal Identification Number (PIN)** at www.fafsa.ed.gov. You must have it to complete the FAFSA online. (A separate PIN may be needed for students and parents.)
- Complete and submit **FAFSA** as soon as possible after January 1st . Keep a copy of the **FAFSA** whether you submit it on paper or file electronically.

Dec./Jan.

- Follow up on any requests for information from the admissions office.
- Some colleges send out decision letters at this time. If admitted, and there are conflicts with your other college choices, consult with your guidance counselor about your options.
- Review your **Student Aid Report (SAR)**. Keep a copy of your **SAR** and any corrections. If you do not receive your **SAR**, call the [Federal Student Aid Information Center](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) at **1-800-433-3243**.
- Check guidance office/online for scholarship availability/applications. Visit www.mesfoundation.com to apply for scholarships online.

Feb./March

- Make a decision and notify all colleges of that decision. It is especially important to notify the schools that you will **not** be attending.
- Submit your written acceptance and any required deposit to your college of choice by the acceptance deadline—usually May 1st (The Candidates Reply Date).
- Compare financial aid award offers among your school choices. They may vary significantly! If there is anything you do not understand, call the college. (See **College Aid Comparison Worksheet**, pg. 35)
- Submit acceptance of the financial aid award at your college choice by the application deadline (usually May 1st, and usually separate from admission acceptance.)

April

- Take any AP exams that are appropriate.
- Make sure final transcripts are sent to the college you will attend.
- Verify college orientation schedule, residence hall assignment, course scheduling and registration.
- Contact your roommate(s) to introduce yourself and discuss such things as what each will be bringing.
- If you and/or your parent(s) are planning to borrow to help with education costs, call **MES** at **1-800-922-6352** to obtain loan information and applications.
- Report scholarships you receive to financial aid office.
- Settle financial matters with your parent(s). How much of your savings/summer job earnings will be used for tuition, and how much for personal expenses, including travel, credit cards, etc.?

May/June/
Summer