

COLLEGE TIMELINE FOR SENIORS

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- _____ **Meet with the high school counselor** to review your records audit your transcript. Submit the **Letter of Recommendation Information Form** to your counselor.
- _____ If you are planning to play college sports – **register with the NCAA Clearinghouse**
- _____ **Register for ACT or SAT or SAT Subject tests** if necessary. (If you miss the first fall test date, your next opportunity may be too late to send scores to your college choices)
- _____ Request recommendations your college applications. Contact your teachers, high school counselor or other individual this month.
- _____ Narrow college choices to a few schools. Your selection should include at least one that you feel will definitely select you.
- _____ If you are applying to any Texas Public Universities and most Two-Year Colleges, complete the **“Apply Texas” application** at www.applytexas.org A universal **“Common Application”** is also available for private colleges at www.commonapp.org
- _____ Send for or download application materials/financial aid information if you have not already done so.
- _____ Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check announcements for additional scholarship opportunities.
- _____ If your college or scholarship or scholarship applications require **essays, GET STARTED**. Choose an English teacher to help critique your work.
- _____ Talk with teachers and other individuals who know you well regarding recommendations.
- _____ Check college catalogs and websites for deadline dates for application for admissions, housing, financial aid, required entrance exam (SAT or ACT) and acceptable financial aid form (FAFSA or Profile).
- _____ Begin processing college application forms.
- _____ If you are a candidate for early decision, file your application in time to meet that deadline. Also be sure to check the LAST acceptable test date for an early decision candidate.
- _____ Continue preparation for SAT or ACT tests.
- _____ Schedule college tours. Check your school calendar for dates when you are not in school other than holidays. Use these. Call or write ahead for an appointment. Observe BACS attendance policy. Regarding college visits, the Student Handbook states: *“COLLEGE VISITS - Normally three days are allowed for students to visit colleges. Student must provide a note from their parents and a verification note from the college attended to the high school office. Only a half day excused absence will be granted for visits to local colleges.”*
- _____ Meet with college representatives when they visit your high school.
- _____ **Maintain good grades.**

OCTOBER

_____ Complete financial aid forms as needed (**FAFSA**). Submit as soon after October 1st as possible. Submit any supplemental financial forms required by the colleges of your choice.

_____ Continue processing applications and recommendation forms to the counselor and teachers for completion of their sections. (Teachers and counselors are asked to write numerous recommendations **always allow at least 1-2 weeks** for them to complete recommendations.) **Follow your counseling office procedure.**

_____ Continue to fill out applications. Online applications are preferable for most colleges. Be sure to follow the directions. Many colleges require essay responses. Allow yourself ample time to do a good job. Use spelling and grammar software to check you essay.

_____ Meet application deadlines for early decision or early action (usually November 1), housing, scholarships or financial aid as stated by each college. CAUTION: these deadlines may vary by college or university.

_____ Take / retake the SAT or ACT, if necessary.

_____ Find out the SAT Subject Tests requirements of your college choices. IF required, register to take SAT subject tests on a date when you will NOT be taking the SAT. **You are not permitted to take the SAT and the SAT Subject Tests on the same date.**

_____ Continue to submit college applications forms, even if you have submitted an early decision or early action application.

NOVEMBER

_____ **Plan on attending a College Fair** that Lutheran South hosts each year. It is during school, the first 2-3 classes of the morning, BACS provides transportation to and from LSA.

_____ Continue to study hard because your first semester senior year grades are very important. Most colleges request a copy of your 1st semester senior grades for admission consideration.

_____ Continue to complete college applications for admissions. Follow up on letters of recommendation. Request transcripts as needed. Copy ALL forms before being mailed. Mail to meet deadlines as stated by colleges and universities.

_____ Take/retake ACT, SAT or SAT Subject Tests if necessary.

_____ All recommendations that have deadlines through January 15th must be submitted to the counselor by December 1st.

DECEMBER

_____ Look back over your timeline to be sure you have completed each step in the college admissions process.

_____ Most application(s) should be submitted before January 1st.

_____ When you take the SAT or ACT, request that these scores be sent to all colleges to which you have applied. If you did not list them when you registered for the tests, fill out the special form for additional

college scores. These forms are available in the counseling office. These scores may be ordered by telephone or on the ACT or College Board websites.

_____ Expect notification of Early Decision acceptance or deferral by December 15th.

DECEMBER, cont.

_____ Take the SAT Subject Tests that are required by the colleges of your choice.
(You signed up for these in October)

_____ Ask your parents to begin gathering their financial information for financial aid purposes.

JANUARY

_____ Research scholarships and loans.

_____ If required, complete and return any mid-year reports to colleges which request them.

FEBRUARY

_____ **Keep your grades up...finish strong...remember that you will be accepted to college *"Pending the successful completion of your 12th grade course work."***

_____ Check deadline dates for financial aid/scholarship grants. Many forms are due March 1st.

APRIL

_____ Look for acceptance notices. April 1st is the most popular date for college to notify students.

_____ Carefully choose your college and write the college a letter of acceptance, which the college should receive before May 1st.

_____ Write other colleges to decline their acceptance (also before May 1st).

_____ If you are wait-listed and wish to be kept in consideration, be sure to advise the college in writing.

_____ If all colleges send rejections, don't panic! There are several alternatives. See your counselor immediately to explore other possibilities.

_____ Finalize plans for housing, financial aid, and/or scholarships.

_____ Make any deposit required by the institution you plan to attend. May 1st is the generally accepted nationwide deadline for deposits for fall term. Be sure to check with your college for their exact requirements.

MAY

_____ Make final choice of college or university, if you have not already done so. Complete all details concerning college admissions.

_____ Notify your counselor of your final college choice and whether you have been awarded any scholarships (academic, athletic, artistic, dramatic, or musical – NOT LOANS)

MAY, cont.

Complete the SENIOR EXIT FORM indicating the colleges applied to, scholarships and grants awarded and where you want your final transcript to be sent.

HAVE A HAPPY GRADUATION!