

PLANNING TIMELINE FOR SENIORS

September:

- Explore and begin to narrow your post-high options.
- Schedule a conference with your counselor if you would like to discuss future plans. If you use Common App, you must see your counselor.
- Review standardized tests results with your counselor i.e. PSAT, ACT, SAT.
- If you have not taken or want to retake the college entrance exams (ACT or SAT) register to take them.
- Attend informational sessions given by college representatives. Sign up in *Naviance*.
- Ensure that your high school courses meet college/career/NCAA requirements.
- Obtain college admission applications. Submit your college application early; most colleges including the University of Minnesota will accept applications beginning in September.
- Review the list of scholarships in *Naviance* and continue to monitor all school year as the list changes.
- Attend the Senior Parent Meeting/Financial Aid (FAFSA) Presentation on Thursday, September 27, 2018 in *The Loft*.

October:

- Access to the FAFSA opens October 1. Complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov, if possible. Processing is usually 2-4 weeks. *Do not pay anyone to help you with the FAFSA!* Obtain any additional forms directly from the colleges of your choice.
- Sign up for the ASVAB Career Assessment in the Counseling Office.
- Register for Campus Visit Days at schools you are considering. Check out classrooms, dorms, facilities, etc. Remember to ask lots of questions. The Counseling Office has a handout on the top questions to ask.
- Visit colleges during teachers' convention weekend.
- Start filling out your applications and working on essays. Schedule an interview if necessary.
- Ask individuals if they will write letters of recommendation for you. Give them plenty of time to complete them!
- Apply for early admission decision, if interested.
- Research private sources for scholarships. Two good sites are www.fastweb.com & www.scholarships.com
- Attend the college fairs. The National College Fair is at the Minneapolis Convention Center on October 24-25, 2018.

November:

- Early action deadline for University of Minnesota–Twin Cities and University of Wisconsin–Madison is November 1.
- Meet the priority deadline for college applications to schools other than U of MN and U of WI.
- Finalize college choices.
- Check to be sure you registered for the appropriate entrance tests.
- Register with the Selective Service if you are an 18-year-old male. The website is www.sss.gov (To receive loans from the federal government young men turning 18 MUST register for Selective Service.)
- Schedule admission interviews, if necessary.
- Work on application essays.
- Insure that your college application is complete; check with counselor or college.
- Keep a file copy of all applications.
- Complete scholarship essays and applications. A small amount of time and effort may reward you with a nice scholarship. Make note of deadlines. Research scholarships available at the schools you are applying via their websites.

January:

- Consider Advanced Placement tests. Learn more about them at www.collegeboard.com

February:

- Review your status on all applications.
- Check deadlines for financial aid applications and housing applications at all colleges you are considering.
- If you have not submitted your financial aid application, do so. Some financial aid is given on a first come, first serve basis.

March:

- If possible, visit all colleges to which you have applied.
- If you have not applied for admission to a college, DO SO NOW! IT MAY NOT BE TOO LATE.
- Review your financial Student Aid Report (SAR) for accuracy.

April:

- Review college acceptance notices. Complete necessary forms. Finalize your choices.
- Confirm that housing, course registration and financial aid are in order for the school you will be attending.
- Review scholarship acceptance notices and rejection information. Complete necessary forms.
- Start watching for your financial aid award letter(s). Compare the offers from all schools. Consider not only the total dollar amounts, but also the types of aid offered. Sign and return your financial aid award letter to confirm that you want the aid.
- Apply for summer jobs – many financial awards assume student financial contribution.
- Keep up academic work. Colleges will review your final grades.

May:

- Notify all colleges to which you applied, but do not plan to attend.
- Take Advanced Placement Exams. Exact test dates will be announced in January.
- **Complete the Senior Survey and request your final transcript be sent to the school you are attending in the fall.**
- Attend the **Senior Academic Awards Ceremony on Wednesday, May 22.**

June/July:

- Make sure your final transcript has been sent to the college that you plan to attend.
- Attend orientation meetings offered by the college.