

Senior Pre-College Calendar and Checklist

AUGUST

Review your career plans and decide which type of school is right for you.

Visit some college campuses.

Narrow your college list to no more than five schools.

Request catalogs and admissions information.

Contact your high school counselor for registration materials and test dates for the SAT and/or the ACT.

Sign up for Educaid's free e-mail CollegeBound Newsletter at www.educaid.com

SEPTEMBER

Meet with admissions representatives who are visiting your school.

Make a list of test names, dates, fees and registration deadlines, and of deadlines for college admissions and financial aid applications.

Remember that you must take tests like the SAT and ACT at least six weeks before the deadline for scores to be submitted to colleges.

Begin asking teachers, guidance counselors and employers for letters of recommendation to include with your admissions and/or scholarship applications.

OCTOBER

Take the SAT or ACT exam, if necessary.

Work on admissions application essays.

Visit your top school choices. Interview some students, faculty and staff.

Attend special programs such as college fairs and financial aid nights.

Find out which financial aid applications your college choices require and when the forms are due.

Some private universities may require that you register for CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE™ at this time. (This determines your qualification for private school aid.)

Get your free e-mail account at www.collegeclub.com/highschool and start learning about the colleges you're considering.

NOVEMBER

Take the SAT or ACT exam, if necessary.

Obtain financial aid applications from your guidance office or college of choice. Read them carefully to determine what information is required and when the applications are due.

Begin preparing your college applications. Check with the colleges to find out when materials must be postmarked.

DECEMBER

Go to www.fafsa.ed.gov for your Free Application for Federal Student Aid form. Submit your completed form to the processor as soon after January 1 as possible.

Apply for outside funding or scholarships.

PARENTS: Save your year-end payroll stub if it shows your earnings for the year. You may need it for financial aid eligibility reviews by schools.

JANUARY

Submit your completed Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to the processor as soon after January 1 as possible.

KEEP COPIES OF ALL FORMS YOU SUBMIT.

January is Financial Aid Awareness Month. Look for special programs in your area.

PARENTS: It's helpful to get your income tax returns prepared early – schools may request them to prove eligibility for financial aid.

FEBRUARY

Check to see if your mid-year transcripts have been sent to the schools to which you have applied.

Mail your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), if you have not already done so.

Research taking Advanced Placement (AP) or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.

Rank your finalized list of colleges

MARCH

Look for your Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail. Your SAR contains federal financial aid information.

Submit tax forms to the financial aid office if requested. Contact each office to make certain that your application is complete. Find out what else you need to do to establish and maintain your eligibility for financial aid.

If you have not received your Student Aid Report four weeks after sending in your FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (319)337-5665.

APRIL

Watch the mail for college acceptance and financial aid award letters.

Compare the financial aid awards you receive.

Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline.

Check with the college you've chosen to attend about the details of signing and returning financial aid award letters.

Notify the other schools that you will not be attending.

Watch for important deadlines at your chosen college (housing, financial aid, etc.)

MAY

Advanced Placement (AP) examinations are given in high schools nationwide.

If you need and are eligible for a student or parent loan, call Educaid at 1-800-578-1233 for a loan application.

Finalize summer school or summer job plans.

Log on to www.collegeclub.com/highschool and start meeting new friends at the college you plan to attend.

JUNE

Other

