

Senior College Planning Timeline

NOW:

- Sign-up for SAT and/or ACT and take exams before January 1st (the sooner the better).
- Finalize list of four-year schools to apply to (5-10 max.), visit any campuses you have not yet visited, and learn what each application requires (SAT/ACT, SAT II, essay, recommendations, etc.).
- Create a calendar of exam dates and application deadlines.
- Attend college visits in the Career Center and College Fair.
- Request letters of recommendation from teachers and your counselor.
- Start working on essays and resume. Resources are available in the Career Center.
- Some schools have deadlines of November 1st (UMCP), so be mindful!
- Investigate and complete NCAA eligibility forms if you are planning to attend Div. I and II colleges.
- Sign-up in the Career Center to take the ASVAB if you are interested in joining the military.

November

- Plan to have the majority of your four-year college applications completed before Thanksgiving, especially for four-year schools (it is okay if you are going to take the December SAT/ACT).
- Work on finalizing essays.
- Research scholarship opportunities through [website](#) and the [Career Center](#) EVERY MONTH!
- Attend Financial Aid Night.

December

- Complete any applications that are not yet complete.

January

- FAFSA is available to be completed January 1st at www.FAFSA.ed.gov. If you are a male 18 or older, you must register for the Selective Service to receive federal financial aid.
- Apply for Maryland State Delegate Scholarships and Charles County Scholarships as soon as applications are available.

February

- Ask your counselor for mid-year grades if any of the colleges you applied to require them.
- Apply to CSM and start studying for placement tests.

March

- Take the ASVAB in March if you plan to join the military. Check the Career Center for March date.
- Keep your eyes and ears open for any scholarship opportunities.

April

- April 1st: National Notification Deadline for four-year colleges.
- Financial aid offers should be received by mid-April for four-year schools if you have completed all necessary documentation.
- If you have been accepted to any colleges that you have not yet visited, visit ASAP!
- Notify Mrs. Tober of all acceptances and scholarship offers with copies of letters.

May

- You must notify four-year colleges by May 1st of your choice to attend, or you risk losing your acceptance and financial aid offers (return all financial aid letters as requested).
- If you were wait-listed at a college you are eager to attend, call or write the director of admissions and how to strengthen your application. Recent academic change or new tests scores may help.
- If you are denied admission or your financial need is not met, visit the career center to learn about alternatives.

June

- Respond promptly to all requests from your college.
- Notify your counselor which college you have selected so that your final transcript will be sent.
- Use the summer to earn money for college.