



DEXTER SOUTHFIELD

College Counseling Checklist and Timeline

Dexter Southfield CEEB Code: 220262

CLASS 11 ACADEMIC YEAR (2021-2022)

December 2021

- Complete the Student Questionnaire (completed by the student) and Parent Questionnaires (completed by the parent). Both questionnaires are due to your college counselor by **January 18**.
- Register for the optional Virtual ACT or SAT Spring Prep Course (8-weeks) offered by Summit Educational Group on Saturday mornings.
 - **ACT Virtual Prep Course** (January-March) registration: (Deadline: **January 6**)
<https://mytutor.com/product/ds-apr22-act/>
 - **SAT Virtual Prep Course** (February-April) (Deadline: **February 10**)
<https://mytutor.com/product/ds-may22-sat/>
- Register for optional **February ACT (2/12)**: www.act.org
Registration Deadline: **January 7**

January 2022

- Attend nine College Counseling Seminars (January-March)
Seminar topics include: College essay writing, Completing the Common Application, Building a balanced college list
- Turn in completed Student and Parent Questionnaires to your college counselor by **January 18**.
- Prepare for spring SAT or ACT testing (attend Summit Saturday ACT or SAT virtual prep class, hire private tutor, or prepare individually).
- Register for optional **March SAT (3/12)**: www.collegeboard.org
Registration Deadline: **February 11**
- Register for optional **April ACT (4/2)**: **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**
Registration Deadline: **February 25**

Spring College Counseling Appointments:

- Student meets with his or her college counselor. Counselor begins to learn about the student, their goals and interests, and what types of schools may be a good fit. Student and counselor generate a preliminary college list.
- Parent(s) and college counselor meet (with the student too if possible) to discuss preliminary college list.
- Student follows up with college counselor to discuss college research/visits and to modify college list.



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February 2022

- Athletic Recruiting Night: **February 17, 6:30-8:00 p.m., Clay Center Lecture Hall**
- Tour college campuses over Presidents' Day and Winter Holiday (**February 19-22**). Sign up for campus tours and info sessions in advance via college admissions websites.
- Begin scheduling college interviews if available.
- Register for optional **May SAT (5/7)**: www.collegeboard.org
Registration Deadline: **April 8**

March 2022

- Class 11 Parent Coffee with the College Counseling Office:
March 10, 8:30-9:30 a.m., Clay Center Lecture Hall
- Tour college campuses over Spring Break (**March 12-28**). Sign up for campus tours and info sessions in advance via college admissions websites.
- Register for optional **June ACT (6/11)**: **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**
Registration Deadline: **May 6**

May 2022

- Take AP exam(s) at school if enrolled in AP course(s): **May 2-6, 9-13**
- Consult with your college counselor about asking two junior year teachers to write you recommendations. We recommend asking:
 - One humanities teacher: History, English, or Foreign Language
 - One STEM teacher: Science or Math
- NCAA Registration: Students considering playing Division I or II athletics should communicate with their college counselor regarding steps to NCAA Eligibility before the end of junior year.
- Register for optional **July ACT (7/16)**: **Error! Hyperlink reference not valid.**
Registration Deadline: **June 17**

Academics:

- Take challenging courses. Strength of curriculum is an important factor in admissions decisions at selective colleges.
- Work hard in your classes; this is the last full year of grades that colleges will evaluate upon applying. Try to improve on last year's grades if possible.
- Remember to build positive working relationships with your teachers. Two of your junior year teachers will write college recommendations for you. You want them to be able to describe your work ethic, approach to challenging material, how you handle disappointment, how you work with groups of peers, how you contribute to class discussions, the level of your analysis, and how hard you push yourself beyond basic expectations.

Standardized Testing:

- We recommend juniors take, at a minimum, one SAT or ACT test prior to the summer of their senior year. Plan and consult with your college counselor about a testing plan.



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Extracurricular Activities:

- Stay involved in sports, theater, clubs, volunteering, work, and internships. See where you could be a leader either formally or by example. Start your own initiative if there is an issue or concern that you want to address. **Do your best to remain consistent in your participation – do not jump around too much between sports and activities. Think quality over quantity.**

Collegiate Athletics:

If you are interested in playing a sport at the college level:

- Talk to your coaches to create a list of colleges and an indication of the level of competition for which you project.
- Complete institutional online recruiting questionnaires and contact respective coaches.
- Students interested in playing Division I or II college athletics will need to register on the NCAA website (<https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>) and complete the Athletic Recruitment Forms by the end of the school year. The College Counseling Office will send final Class 11 transcripts to the NCAA for students who have registered.

Explore and Research College Options:

- Sign up in advance for both virtual and on-campus college admissions info sessions, events, and tours via college admissions websites.
- Start thinking about WHY you want to go to college. Imagine who you want to be by the end of your college years – who do you want to become? Which types of colleges, programs, and experiences can help you grow into that person?
- Start touring college campuses to get a feel for large, medium, small; urban, suburban, rural; research universities, liberal arts colleges, STEM colleges, business colleges, arts colleges, etc.
- Do effective, quality research on your college list. Beware of online sources such as niche.com, College Confidential, and other sources that are not compiled by educational professionals in the counseling field.
- Read reliable news sources and stay informed on important events in the world.

Reflect:

- Check your social media presence – only share photos and information you would share with your grandmother.
- Focus on yourself; do not worry about what other people are doing, what they think, the gossip you hear, the myths that are spread, etc.

Special Interests:

- If there is interest in a U.S. military academy, request a pre-candidate questionnaire and complete it.



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Special Interests:

- Work closely with the Art Department if you are preparing an art portfolio.

Summer Before Class 12:

- Update your resume.
- Get a job or do something interesting, productive, or educational. Push your boundaries.
- Tour colleges to try to narrow down your prospective colleges list. If possible, schedule interviews as well.
- Those interested in pursuing a sport in college, attend camps and showcases if possible.
- Complete your Common Application, including the essay.
- Keep reading for fun.
- If you plan on submitting a portfolio of art or music, begin to collect your work.
- Make sure that you can explain WHY you want to apply to each college on your list. If you do not know why, you need to do more research to provide specific, concrete reasons.

CLASS 12 ACADEMIC YEAR (2022-2023)

August 2022

- Complete your online Common Application and essay for your first senior year college counseling meeting.
- Register for optional **October 2022 SAT**: www.collegeboard.org
Registration Deadline: **September 2022**

September 2022

- Student meets with college counselor to discuss summer adventures, teacher recommendations, college visits, and finalize college list and deadlines on the Common Application.
- Meet with college representatives on-campus and/or virtually.
- Attend both on-campus and virtual admissions events, information sessions, and college fairs.
- Register for optional **November 2022 SAT**: www.collegeboard.org
Registration Deadline: **October 2022**
- Be aware of the requirements for each of your schools and their specific programs (i.e., financial aid deadlines, foreign language, levels of math, supplemental essays, recommendations, portfolios, or auditions).

October-November 2022

- Complete early action and early decision applications.
- For students applying for financial aid, parents should complete the FAFSA as early as possible (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>). Some schools also require the CSS Profile (<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>). These forms are typically due when applications are due.



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December 2022

- Complete and submit all regular decision applications.
- Report all early application results and merit aid packages to your counselor.

January-February 2023

- Ensure all applications are complete at each college.
- Contact colleges that deferred your application in the early round to communicate your continued strong interest.

March-April 2023

- Meet with your college counselor to discuss acceptances, options, and compare financial aid packages if necessary.
- Report all regular decision results and merit aid packages to your counselor.

May 2023

- Take AP exam(s) at school if enrolled in an AP course(s).
- By **May 1, 2023**, deposit at one college.

Important College Paperwork: Promptly complete and return all information you receive from the college you plan to attend regarding dorm choice, roommates, class registration, payment, etc. Be sure to continuously check and read your email in the spring and throughout the summer.

Practice life skills such as:

- Learn how to do your own laundry.
- Learn how to cook a few simple meals.
- Write thank you notes to the teachers who wrote your letters of recommendation.