



College Counseling Office Timeline 2022-2023

GRADE 9

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER

College Counselor Assignment

Ninth graders receive their College Counselor assignment in their first semester on campus.

Recruited Athletes

Potentially recruited athletes receive guidance including an accelerated standardized testing timeline. Equally important, students hoping to play their sport in college are encouraged to connect with their assigned College Counselor for more specific guidance and direction.

Email "Check in" from Assigned College Counselor

Ninth graders and their families receive an email from their assigned College Counselor, inviting them to discuss their proposed sophomore year academic schedule (after first discussing options with their Governor's advisor).

All-class Meeting with College Counseling Office (CCO)

In this meeting, ninth graders are encouraged to reflect on and consider their Governor's experience to date, and to consider the experience they hope to have and create for themselves. Ninth graders are then guided through self-reflective exercises so they may begin to identify their learning style, their role(s) and interactions among their peers, and their role(s) and interactions within the classroom.

FEBRUARY-MARCH

Course Selections

While the college process at Governor's begins in earnest in October of junior year, ninth graders are encouraged to seek their assigned College Counselor's advice regarding sophomore year course selections and guidance regarding extracurricular pursuits.

GRADE 10

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER

Fall Family Weekend

Fall Family Weekend includes opportunities for parents and guardians of sophomores to attend sessions on the athletic recruitment process.

OCTOBER

Email "Check in" from Assigned College Counselor

Sophomores (new and returning) and their families receive an email from their assigned College Counselor, inviting them to discuss their proposed junior year academic schedule (after first discussing options with their Governor's advisor).

NOVEMBER

All-class Meeting with College Counseling Office (CCO)

In this meeting, sophomores reflect on their Governor's experience to date. They are reminded that their work in the classroom is perhaps their most important effort at this point (in context of the college search process).

This meeting also moves to more practical dimensions of the college search, including a preliminary sense of what many colleges look for in their admission applicants. For example, sophomores learn that colleges are looking not simply for accomplished students, but for students who also appreciate the significance of what they are learning, who are increasingly aware of their roles and influence among their peers. They will also receive a preview of a suggested junior year Standardized Testing Timeline.

Recruited Athletes

Potentially recruited athletes receive guidance including an accelerated standardized testing timeline. Equally important, students hoping to play their sport in college are encouraged to connect with their assigned College Counselor for more specific guidance and direction.

Winter Family Weekend

Winter Family Weekend includes an information session for parents and guardians of sophomores previewing the year ahead. The meeting (including all presentation materials) is summarized and emailed to all Governor's families of sophomores.

MARCH

All-class Meeting with College Counseling Office (CCO)

Sophomores meet in preparation for the SAT and ACT diagnostic exams noted directly below. This meeting is summarized and emailed to all sophomores and their families.

APRIL

Full SAT and ACT Diagnostic Exams

Sophomores take a full SAT and ACT diagnostic exam at no additional cost, with our test prep partner, ArborBridge. With both exams complete, sophomores, in consultation with their college counselor, can determine on which test (the SAT or ACT) they should focus. Sophomores then have access to a two hour tutorial focused on either the SAT or ACT, also at no cost.

APRIL

All-Class Meeting with College Counseling Office (CCO)

Sophomores meet with the CCO for an overview of their SAT and ACT diagnostic exam results, including direction on scheduling their two-hour individual tutorial with an Arborbridge test prep professional. The two-hour individual tutorial with ArborBridge is live and online and is at no extra cost to students.

MAY/JUNE

SAT or ACT

This early test date for sophomores is primarily for potentially recruited athletes who must submit standardized testing for the athletic recruitment process.

GRADE 11

OCTOBER

College Process Kick Off

In this meeting, juniors are introduced to key college search concepts including:

- the value of research, including an overview of the *College Kickstart* and *Cialfo* platforms the CCO uses to manage the college search and application process
- Important dates and deadlines, and standardized testing recommendations
- Juniors also hear and see an overview of their college process in the months to come individual meetings with their college counselor (which begin in January) and the College Search Seminar Series (which also begins in January)

Fall Family Weekend

Fall Family Weekend includes an information session for parents and guardians of juniors, previewing the year ahead, including information sessions on financial aid and athletic recruitment. The meeting (including all presentation materials) is summarized and emailed to all Governor's families of juniors).

DECEMBER - JANUARY

Need-Based Financial Aid

Families should begin discussing college finances and, if planning to apply for financial aid, should complete the *FAFSA4caster* online to approximate the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) towards college costs. *MyIntuition.com* also offers a helpful college net price calculator.

JANUARY

First Individual College Counseling Meeting

Juniors schedule their first individual meeting with their assigned College Counselor. In this first meeting the student and counselor focus primarily on the completed *College Search Questionnaire* found on *Cialfo*. The conversation centers largely on the student's experiences, including the academic record, overall experience at Governor's, and hopes and expectations for their ongoing college search. Conversations centered on specific colleges typically begin within the second individual college counseling meeting.

JANUARY

College Search Seminar Series

Juniors begin the *College Search Seminar Series* (small group classes that introduce various aspects of the college search and application process). Topics include identifying college research resources and strategies, writing the college essay, the evolving college admissions landscape, preparing for communication with college admission representatives (by email, in interviews, and at college fairs), and completing applications.

FEBRUARY

Winter Family Weekend

The weekend includes a presentation to parents and guardians of juniors by the College Counseling staff, as well as an admissions officer or dean at a selective university. The meeting (including all presentation materials) is summarized and emailed to all Governor's parents and guardians of juniors.

Second Individual College Counseling Meeting

In preparation for this meeting, juniors populate their *College Kick Start* account with colleges they sense could be an appropriate match, using skills they're learning both in the *College Search*

Seminar Series and in individual conversations with their College Counselor.

MARCH

College Visits

When possible, juniors are encouraged to visit a range of college options (rural, urban, large, small, specialized academic focus, liberal arts focus, etc). In addition, juniors are encouraged to visit colleges with varying rates of admission for the broadest (and fullest) sense of their collegiate options.

College visits are now largely available online, which we strongly encourage our students to consider. Many virtual visits offer optional conversations with currently enrolled students and even professors within academic departments. Virtual visits are a terrific way to learn more about a college and to demonstrate interest in attending.

APRIL

Boston Regional College Fair

Juniors meet and interact with representatives from over 130 colleges and universities from across the country. The fair is hosted by BISCCA (Boston Independent School College Counselor Association) and is hosted by Babson College.

Individual College Counseling meetings

Juniors continue to meet individually with their College Counselor.

MAY

All Class Meeting with the College Counseling Office

This session is designed to help juniors frame their college process to date and to affirm their summer college process homework (including completing the Common Application and finalizing their college essay they begin in the CCO College Search Seminar Series. The session also examines the college admissions landscape in context of Affirmative Action and preferential admission. Juniors learn how and why colleges make admission decisions in context of each college's needs and goals in crafting its first year class.

Teacher Recommendations

Juniors make teacher recommendation requests with the guidance of their College Counselor.

College Essay Assignment

Juniors complete a first draft college essay

Final Individual College Counseling Meetings

Juniors meet a final time with their College Counselor in preparation for college search tasks during the summer months.

Final College Search Seminar Series Meeting

In this meeting, the CCO guides juniors through creating a Common Application account and populating the application form.

Individual College Process Summary

Each junior's assigned College Counselor emails a college process summary to both the student and her or his family. The summary includes specific college process benchmarks as well as the working college list with expected selectivity (chance of admission) ratings.

SUMMER (BEFORE SENIOR YEAR)

JUNE

College Visits

When possible, rising seniors are encouraged to visit colleges on their active college list, focusing particularly on those colleges for which admission is rated as “likely” and/or “target.” In consultation with their College Counselor, rising seniors may also interview if the college offers a summer college interview.

Standardized Test Prep

Rising seniors are encouraged to schedule and complete standardized test prep as needed (and as discussed with their College Counselor).

The Common Application

Rising seniors should continue work on the Common Application and begin any individual (non Common App) college applications (i.e. the University of California schools, Georgetown University, University of Maryland, etc.)

Portfolios and Auditions

Artists, musicians, dancers, and actors should review portfolio and audition requirements for each college of interest and begin preparing required materials in consultation with their teachers and counselor.

Recruited Athletes

Recruited athletes at Division I or II colleges should register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.

GRADE 12

AUGUST

SAT

For most seniors who will submit SAT scores with their college admission applications.

SEPTEMBER

All-class Meeting with College Counseling Office (CCO)

This meeting (scheduled during PreSeason) is in preparation for the fall application season. Seniors submit a printed copy of their Common Application Activities page, and upload a final draft of their college essay to the CCO’s Google Classroom. Seniors are also reminded of college process benchmark events including necessary Cialfo updates, communicating appropriately with their teacher recommenders, and reminders on the process of sending standardized test scores to the colleges. Seniors are also reminded of the process for securing permission to miss Academy commitments in scheduling in-person and online college campus visits.

ACT

For most seniors who will submit ACT scores with their college admission applications.

First Fall Individual College Counseling Meeting

Seniors schedule their first fall individual meeting with their assigned College Counselor. In this meeting, seniors review their completed Common Application and essay with their College Counselor and refine their final college list as necessary. Seniors also learn how to greet and

communicate with college representatives who will visit the Governor's campus each fall.

College Reps Visit Governor's

College representatives from around the country visit with our seniors each fall. Seniors have access to the full fall visit schedule (on Cialfo) in advance and are instructed to register in advance to speak with reps with colleges in which they are interested.

OCTOBER

ACT

For seniors who, in consultation with their College Counselor, have registered. Governor's is not a test site for the October ACT administration, so students must register for an alternate site, and arrange their own transportation.

Second Individual College Counseling Meeting

Seniors schedule their second fall individual meeting with their assigned College Counselor.

NOVEMBER

Early Application Deadlines

Seniors who will submit early applications (Early Decision, Early Action, etc.) prepare for the three major early deadlines: November 1, November 10, and November 15. For these deadlines, families applying for need-based financial aid also submit required forms (the FAFSA, College Board CSS Profile, etc.).

DECEMBER

All-class Meeting with College Counseling Office (CCO)

Seniors meet as a class in prep for Early Application notification from the colleges to which they applied. Seniors are reminded of how and why colleges make admission decisions. And they receive instructions on how (and when) to respond to colleges at which they may be deferred.

ACT

For seniors who, in consultation with their College Counselor, have registered. Governor's is not a test site for the December ACT administration, so students must register for an alternate site, and arrange their own transportation.

Early Application Notification

Colleges release Early Decision decisions (typically by December 15). Colleges will begin to release Early Action decisions, which will continue to come out through the end of January.

Prep for Regular Decision Applications

Seniors who will submit Regular Decision applications continue to meet with their College Counselor to refine their college list and to review application supplements, complete mock interview sessions, etc.

JANUARY

Regular Decision and Early Decision II Applications

Seniors submit Regular Decision (and Early Decision II, if applicable) applications (most deadlines the week of January 1). For these deadlines, families applying for need based financial aid also submit required forms (the FAFSA, College Board CSS Profile, etc.).

FEBRUARY

Early Decision II Notification

Colleges release Early Decision II decisions (typically by February 15).

MARCH

Regular Decision Notification

Most colleges release Regular Decision notifications (typically within the third or fourth week of March). Virtually all colleges release decisions by April 1.

All-class Meeting with College Counseling Office (CCO)

Seniors meet as a class to as a look ahead to graduation, including their transition to college. Seniors are reminded of how and why colleges make admission decisions. And they receive instructions on how (and when) to respond to colleges at which they may be waitlisted.

APRIL

Waitlisted Students

Students who will pursue admission from a college admission waitlist send an email of continued interest to the college(s) at which they are waitlisted.

MAY

National Matriculation Deposit Deadline

All seniors should have made a deposit to one college by the May 1 deposit deadline.

JUNE

Final Transcripts to Colleges

The CCO sends final transcripts to the one college at which the student has deposited.