

# SENIOR YEAR TIMELINE

## Quick Tips

- It is not too early to work on college essays in June.
- Pay a lot of attention to both college application deadlines and scholarship deadlines. You cannot request an extension for college applications or scholarships. You will not be considered for admittance or scholarship unless you make the deadline.
- Do come to the counseling office and ask for help when you need it.
- Do not procrastinate and make last minute requests for letters of recommendation. A strong letter requires time from the writer, so please give your recommenders time to complete it on your behalf.
- It is a nice gesture to write a thank you note to your recommenders for taking the time to write a letter on your behalf.

## August

- Review your career plans and decide which type of postsecondary is best for you.
- Save money from your summer job for college.
- List your top college choices in Scoir.
- Research/Request/Organize admission information from your top school choices. Become familiar with the information you will need to provide so that you have it ready in one place when you begin to complete applications.
- For those using common application <https://www.commonapp.org/> or coalition <http://www.coalitionforcollegeaccess.org/> create your account.
- Write in your common app ID and or coalition ID in Scoir.
- Complete the FERPA section in common app. You need to waive your rights to access information.
- Complete FERPA and Waiver section in Scoir. Again, you waive your right to access information.
- Though it is best to visit colleges when students are on campus it can be difficult to find time so if you have time now (summer) for college campus visits....go.
- Make sure your insight questions and resume are complete in Scoir.
- If you haven't already, start brain storming your ideas for college essays.
- Begin writing drafts of college essays.
- Register for upcoming SAT (<https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat?excmpid=VT-00051> and ACT (<http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act.html>)).
- Study for SAT or ACT (Khan Academy at collegeboard.com).
- Create a comparison log to reflect thoughts about finding the right fit college. JED has a great worksheet available online at <https://www.settogo.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/The-Right-Fit-Worksheet.pdf>

- JED also has a first step to going to college resource site worth looking online at <https://www.settogo.org/key-first-steps-for-the-college-selection-journey/>
- The College Foundation of North Carolina has a great resource site especially for in-state schools. <https://www.cfnc.org/index.jsp>
- If you are an athlete planning on competing in college sports, you must complete the NCAA clearinghouse application. Completion needs to be done asap of your senior year. This link will provide information on how to register <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future/how-register>

## September

- Complete any tasks from the August timeline you still need to do.
- Create your own checklist/timeline with your personal testing (SAT/ACT), college application, scholarship, and other material deadlines.
- Colleges have several different types of deadlines: Rolling, Priority, Early Action, Early Decision, and Regular Decision. Refer to the college admission pages and to SCoir to be aware of your college application deadlines. Decide if you are applying Early Action, Early Decision, or Regular Admission and note this on SCoir.
- Start completing “Early” college applications.
- Keep working on improving your college essay drafts.
- If SCoir initial requests and questions are not complete, complete them now.
- Request a teacher letter of recommendation if needed.
- Listen to announcements and college reps coming to our school. Meet with college representatives who visit our school both in person and virtually. Sign up on SCoir to meet with reps.
- Start your scholarship search:
  - Check the **Catholic Daily** regularly for scholarship information
  - CFNC: <https://www.cfnc.org/pay/pay.jsp>
  - Collegeboard: <https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/>
  - CollegeNET.com: <https://www.financialaidfinder.com/student-scholarship-search/college-scholarship-contests/contests-for-scholarships/>
  - Fastweb.com: <https://www.fastweb.com/>
  - Scholarships.com: <https://www.scholarships.com/>
  - ScholarshipMonkey.com: <http://www.scholarshipmonkey.com/>
  - <https://www.cappex.com/scholarships/>
  - <https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/>
  - Also look locally: Parents’ Employer and Local Organizations that offer scholarships to local students that might be less competitive than national scholarships.
  - **YOU SHOULD NEVER PAY FOR SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION OR APPLICATION**
- **Reminder:** Pay attention to scholarship application deadlines.
- Attended our school’s financial aid night.
- Your school CEEB code is 340665

- Start familiarizing yourself with FAFSA, CSS Profile, Residency Determination Form, College Calculator for determining cost of college (See last page of this timeline).
- Have your college essays proof read by someone you trust before finalizing your drafts.
- Know that you will need to have your SAT and ACT scores sent directly from the testing site. CCHS does not send out official test scores.
- Finalize your college application choices to include at least one safety school.
- If you cannot afford the SAT/ACT testing fees, talk with your counselor about fee waivers.
- Your transcript will be ready to send early September. We cannot send earlier unless there is an extenuating circumstance.

## October

- Complete FAFSA
- To complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa> both the student and parent will need:
  - Your Social Security Number
  - Your Alien Registration Number (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
  - Your federal income tax returns, W-2s, and other records of money earned. (**Note:** You may be able to transfer your federal tax return information into your FAFSA using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool.)
  - Bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
  - Records of untaxed income (if applicable)
  - An FSA ID to sign electronically.
- Complete the Residency Determination Form online if applying to in state schools. The link is <https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/>
- Complete October deadline college applications
- Request your transcripts to be sent to colleges in Naviance (after you have completed your applications).
- Keep searching for scholarships.
- Take every opportunity to get to know colleges: meet with the representatives, visit campus, do virtual tours online, and attend local college fairs both in person and virtually.
- Narrow down your list using your best fit college worksheet or just your family pro/con list.
- Complete your college essays after you have had them proof read.
- Complete early decision or early action application with October deadlines but do not submit until you have someone: counselor, parent, or teacher look it over.
- If you have not done so, request your teacher letters of recommendation.

## **November/December**

- Complete early decision or early action application due this month but do not submit until you have someone: counselor, parent, or teacher look it over.
- Make sure to request to have your transcripts sent.
- Make sure that the testing company sent your scores directly to universities.
- Work hard in school and make being prepared for your mid-year exams a priority.

## **January**

- Request to have your mid-year grades sent to colleges.
- Keep working on completing college applications.
- Keep working on scholarship applications.
- Work hard to maintain strong grades.

## **February - May**

- Keep working on rolling admission and regular decision applications.
- Acceptance letters and financial aid packages will start arriving. Review and compare your choices.
- Keep working hard and finish your senior year strong.
- Take another visit to campus, talk to a representative, review your best fit worksheet and or personal pro/con list to make your final choice.
- Colleges must typically notify students of admissions results by April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Students must typically notify colleges of their decision by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- You are admitted conditionally based upon successful completion of senior year. Keep up your grades and make good decisions ☺

# What to be aware of around Residency Determination and Financial Aid, Paying for College, Merit and Need Based Scholarship and Grants

**Merit-based scholarships** are awarded **based** on your individual accomplishments, whether they are academic, athletic, artistic or otherwise. Most colleges offer **merit-based scholarships** for students with strong academic records, leadership qualities or community involvement, among other things.

**Need-based scholarships and grants** are exactly what their title indicates: money for students with a financial need.

More than 85% of college students receive some form of financial aid so there is no question that there is a lot of need at colleges and universities.

The question is: How do colleges determine who has a need? And is there enough money available to satisfy that need?

The answer to the first question is the same at most schools. Determining need is a simple math equation: Cost of Attendance minus the Expected Family Contribution equals the Student Need. In the acronym formula, that would be: COA – EFC = SN.

Collegeboard offers tools and calculators for you to figure out college costs

<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/tools-calculators>

## FAFSA

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa>

If applying for federal financial aid, get started by collecting the information for the FAFSA for the 2022-2023 school year. <https://fafsa.ed.gov/help/before003.htm>

You will need the following documents:

- Your Social Security Number
- Your 2020 W-2 forms and other records of money earned.  
Your (and if married, your spouse's) 2020 Federal Income Tax Return
- Your current bank statements and records of investments (if applicable)
- Your 2020 untaxed income records (if applicable)  
A FSA ID to sign electronically

## CSS Profile

<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>

The **PROFILE** form is administered by the College Scholarship Service (**CSS**), the financial aid division of the College Board. The **CSS PROFILE** is required by many private colleges and universities to determine your eligibility for non-government financial aid, such as the institution's own grants, loans and scholarships.

### Create an account on scholarship search engines

- CFNC: <https://www.cfnc.org/pay/pay.jsp>
- Collegeboard: <https://opportunity.collegeboard.org/>
- CollegeNET.com:  
<https://www.financialaidfinder.com/student-scholarship-search/college-scholarship-contests/contests-for-scholarships/>
- Fastweb.com: <https://www.fastweb.com/>
- Scholarships.com: <https://www.scholarships.com/>
- ScholarshipMonkey.com: <http://www.scholarshipmonkey.com/>
- <https://www.cappex.com/scholarships/>
- <https://www.niche.com/colleges/scholarships/>

### Residency Determination Service (RDS) Only necessary if applying to a North Carolina State School

<https://ncresidency.cfnc.org/residencyInfo/>

Under North Carolina law, to qualify for in-state residency, you must show that:

- You have established your legal residence (domicile) in North Carolina
- You have maintained that domicile for at least twelve (12) consecutive months before the beginning of the term
- You have a residentiary presence in the state
- You intend to make North Carolina your permanent home indefinitely (rather than being in North Carolina solely to attend college)
- NC college applications will also direct you to the residency website.