

Senior Year Overview

It is **critical** that each student and his or her parent(s)/guardian(s) carefully review the requirements for graduation and the student's transcript to ensure the proper classes are selected to meet graduation requirements. The counselor will work diligently with you to select the proper classes, but remember, your graduation is ultimately your responsibility.

Testing: Remember—ALL graduation requirements, including passing all parts of STAAR* English I, Biology, English II, Algebra I, and U.S. History must be met before you can take part in the graduation ceremony.

Required: Meet all COHS graduation requirements;

Meet Standard on ALL 5 STAAR End-of-Course exams;

Complete FAFSA/OPT-OUT FORM

Strongly Recommended:

College Ready: Met Standard on SAT, ACT, or TSIA2 or

Career Ready: Earned an Industry Based Certification **OR**

Military Ready: Taken the ASVAB AND Enlist in the Military



By senior year, you need to have plans for post-graduation ensuring your choices adequately prepare you for your future.

- **College**—APPLY EARLY to choose 3 to 5 schools: one dream school that may seem like a stretch, one sure thing, and several choices in between. Make sure you meet the admission requirements and are registered for the proper entrance exams. Do not wait until just before the deadline or you may be too late. The goal is to have all your applications submitted by the end of the fall semester.
- **Technical school**—check with several to make sure they have the kind of training you are seeking. Compare their job placement rates and financial aid opportunities to determine which is your best choice.
- **Military**—talk to recruiters for several branches of the service. See which one offers you the best opportunities. Take the ASVAB; keep in touch with the recruiter of the branch you select.
- **Work**—make sure you have adequate job skills for a career with a future, not just a temporary job. Did you earn a certification at COHS through your CTE course pathway? Find out from your future employer if the benefits plan offers incentives for further education



12th Grade Post-Secondary Planning Checklist

August

- Check out the college websites to research information about admissions, financial aid, majors available, etc. Be sure to check out deadlines.
- Research plans after high school: Texas Gear Up. Texas On Course. Texas Reality Check. Major Clarity.
- Finalize essays required for the college/scholarship applications.
- Update your resume. Be sure to include all of your volunteer work and extracurricular activities.
- Make sure that you have the required classes for your graduation plan and the college or university that you are planning to attend.
- Enroll in as many challenging (Honors, Dual Credit or AP) courses as you can.
- Allow the registrar, counselor, and teachers at least two weeks before your application deadlines to submit/provide the necessary documents to colleges (transcript, letters of recommendation, etc.)
- When requesting a transcript, complete the Transcript Request Form and return to the counseling office.
- See your counselor to find out if you qualify for an application fee waiver.
- Need to improve your SAT, ACT or TSIA score? Register to take these college entry tests again.
- Visit with the counselor to review your graduation plan to ensure that you are on track for graduation.

September

- Keep a calendar with deadlines posted for easy visibility.
- Take the ASVAB.
- Keep up with the scholarship postings throughout the year.
- If possible, visit the colleges that most interest you. Be sure to complete the paperwork for an excused absence BEFORE your college visit. You are allowed two college visits your senior year.
- Create your profile at college application platforms: Apply Texas and/or Common Application

October

- Take the school day ACT and or SAT.
- Attend the College Fair and meet the college representatives who may be reviewing your application for admission.

- ___ Meet with your counselor early to discuss your plans, transcript requests, fee waivers, and letters of recommendation (2-week notice).

November

- ___ Pay attention to scholarship opportunities from the counselor's office, and complete and submit application forms before deadlines.
- ___ Verify that the college admissions office has all your paperwork.
- ___ Visit with the counselor to review your graduation plan to ensure that you are on track for graduation.

December

- ___ Once you are accepted to a college, share the news with your guidance counselor.
- ___ For student athletes interested in playing collegiate sports, enroll in NCAA. See your counselor.
- ___ Reach out to the college's financial aid department to apply for scholarships.
- ___ Continue to keep up with the scholarship postings throughout the year.
- ___ Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. or TASFA. THIS IS A TEXAS GRADUATION REQUIREMENT, unless you complete the Opt-Out Form.
- ___ Males need to complete their Selective Service registration as part of FAFSA.

January

- ___ Apply for scholarships.
- ___ Take the ASVAB.

February

- ___ Continue to do well with your grades and stay involved.
- ___ Check for scholarship opportunities online and at your college. Submit application forms on time.
- ___ Retake TSIA, SAT, ACT if necessary. Scholarship opportunities and acceptance letters can improve with better test scores.

March

- ___ Continue attending college sessions hosted at your school.
- ___ Check for scholarship opportunities in the counselor's office and submit applications as needed.
- ___ Evaluate the colleges/universities to which you have been admitted and determine which college/university you will be attending.
- ___ Complete your housing application, if applicable.

April

- ___ Review your FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR).
- ___ Review the financial aid packages offered by the different universities. Remember that you have a choice regarding what you will accept and what you will decline. Work with your parents through this process. Be ready to commit by May.
- ___ Submit a copy of your award letters to your counselor/advisor.

May

- ___ Check on your housing arrangements at the college you have selected.
- ___ Have your post-secondary plans confirmed by May 1, National Decision Day.
- ___ Attend Senior Awards/Scholarship Night.
- ___ Complete Senior Survey of your post-secondary plans: College, Work or Military.

June

- ___ Submit a request to the registrar to send your final transcript which reflects graduation to the branch of the military service you have enlisted in or to the technical school, college, or university that you will be attending.
- ___ Those students who have taken dual credit courses while in high school will need to request their Angelina AND Lone Star Transcript be sent to their chosen college. Contact the Junior College and follow the online instructions for requesting a transcript.
- ___ Your COCISD google account will expire this summer; so be sure to move any important documents, information, or emails to a new account by the end of the month

