

“Go-To-College” Calendar Check List

www.collegeanswer.com

Make your college planning easier by using this checklist. It will provide helpful reminders for tasks you may need to complete during high school.

Keep in mind, not all students will need to do all items on the checklist in order to reach their post-secondary goals. Use this checklist as a guide and consult your school counselor if you have questions.

FRESHMEN AND SOPHOMORES

- Get to know your high school counselor.
- Develop good study skills.
- Explore careers that interest you – www.careercruising.com
- Take challenging courses and get good grades.
- Participate in extracurricular activities, sports, clubs, etc.

JUNIORS

September

- Plan a family college discussion.
- Review your transcript and courses with your school counselor.
- Prepare a list of potential colleges – www.collegeboard.org
- Sign up to take the PSAT.
- Get organized. Put all college and scholarship information in a file or binder.

October – November

- Attend college fairs and financial aid nights.
- Take the PSAT
- Search for scholarships. www.fastweb.com
- Plan and make college visits – check out www.collegeboard.org for ways to enhance your campus visit.

December

- Review your PSAT results online using MyCollegeQuickStart. See your school counselor.
- Talk with college students home on break here at PV – see your counselor for meeting time!
- Prepare to take the SAT and/or ACT. Use practice questions on www.collegeboard.org and www.petersons.com/college-search/test-prep

January - February

- Continue the college search, compare schools, and narrow down options.
- Meet with your school counselor about senior course selection.
- Register for the SAT and/or ACT.

March – April - May

- Plan campus visits.
- Discuss your college choices with your parents.
- Compare college requirements for admission with your course load.
- Take the SAT and/or ACT.
- Think about a summer job; make a list of possible employers.

Summer

- Search for scholarships.
- Combine vacations with college visits if possible.
- Think about who you will ask for college recommendations.
- Finalize your college list

SENIORS

September

- Discuss your course load and college plans with your school counselor.
- Arrange college visits if you have not already done so.
- Register for the SAT/ACT if needed. Take subject tests if required by colleges you are applying to.
- Search for scholarships on www.fastweb.com, in the counseling office, through community groups, etc.
- Stay organized. File information regarding applications and scholarships.

October

- Verify that your transcript is accurate.
- Review college application and financial aid deadlines.
- Request letters of recommendation
- Work on college essays
- Complete college applications
- Review college website for deadlines

November – December

- Focus on maintaining good grades
- Finish all college applications
- Stay organized.
- Gather tax information for FAFSA completion in January

January

- Submit your FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible. Some student aid programs award funds on a first-come, first-served basis. Also, some colleges have priority financial aid deadlines.
- Make copies of all financial aid forms submitted and keep in your college binder.

February – March

- College decisions start rolling in. Plan to compare all your options before making a final decision.
- Read your SAR – student aid report carefully. It will provide college specific details of your financial aid package from each school.
- Respond quickly to college requests for additional information.

April - May

- Visit schools one more time before making your final decision.
- Send your reply and deposit to the college of your choice before the deadline
- Mark your calendar with other important college deadlines (housing deposit, meal plan, financial aid, etc.)
- Notify the financial aid office of any additional scholarship funds you may be receiving.
- Find a summer job!

Summer

- Finalize paperwork; arrange to pay for first semester, payment plan, etc.
- Attend orientation.
- Send thank you notes to people who helped you get in. You never know when you may need another letter of recommendation!
- Finalize your budget for books, transportation, etc.
- Download a packing for college checklist to make sure you are going off to school prepared!

