

COLLEGE PREP CALENDAR FOR SENIORS

MONTH	MONTHLY GOALS	NOTES
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend all programs and seminars such as College Nights, Career Fairs, Financial Aid, and Pre-AP/AP Parent Nights presented by your school's guidance office. • Meet with all college admissions representatives that visit your school. Get their card and email them with questions or just to say, "Thank You," for coming to your school. • Make sure you are taking a fourth year of rigorous college prep Pre-AP or AP math and science courses. Colleges are more interested in the courses you are taking your senior year than your GPA. • Register on line for the October/November SAT www.collegeboard.com Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject Tests, and September/October ACT www.act.org. Colleges expect you to take the optional Writing section. • Have official test scores sent by the testing agency to the colleges on your list by selecting this option when registering or at time of testing. • THEA/TSI Texas state law requires all students entering Texas public colleges or universities to be assessed for college readiness in critical reading, writing, and mathematics, unless they are exempt. The following can exempt you from taking the THEA (TASP): <u>TAKS</u> – Writing-score of 3 or higher Math-2200 or higher Reading- 2200 or higher <u>ACT</u> – composite score of 23 or higher with min. of 19 on both the English and Math. <u>SAT</u>-combined critical reading and math score of 1070 or higher with min. of 500 on both Critical Reading and Math. A testing schedule can found in the THEA Registration Bulletin. Register on-line or pick up a packet from your counselor www.thea.nesinc.com TCOMPASS, ACCUPLACER, and TASSET are THEA alternatives offered at some colleges. • Meet with your guidance counselor to be sure your list includes colleges appropriate to your academic and personal record. • Review your transcript and extra-curricular resume with your school counselor to ensure their accuracy. • Use the Internet to apply to all the colleges/universities but make copies for your files. • Check on <u>application, housing, and financial aid deadlines</u>. College application processes vary and it is essential to <u>meet all deadlines!</u> • If you are in the <u>top 10%</u> of your graduating class and plan to take advantage of <u>automatic admission to a Texas Public University</u> you must meet certain residency guidelines and you <u>must complete the application process</u> for that university meeting all <u>deadlines</u>. • If the colleges require recommendations, ask the appropriate people to write on your behalf. Give at least three weeks notice before the due date. • Provide recommendation forms, any special instructions and a stamped, addressed business envelope to the people writing your recommendation. Include a <u>copy of your resume</u>. "Letters of Recommendation" should be <u>confidential documents</u> from your teacher or counselor to your college/university. • Be thoughtful! Write <u>thank-you notes</u> to those who write recommendations and keep them informed of your decisions. • Begin thinking about topics for your college application essays; start drafting outlines. Ask your English teacher to proof your final draft. Remember, this is one of the few opportunities you will have to distinguish yourself from the other applicants. • Plan visits to colleges and set up interviews (if you didn't get to them during the summer or if you want to return 	

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	<p>to a campus for a second time). Read bulletin boards and the college newspaper. Talk with current students and professors and exchange email addresses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse form www.ncaaclearinghouse.net if you hope to play Division I or II sports. You will need to download and give your counselor a request for an official transcript to complete the registration process. 	
<p>October</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Send applications electronically or by mail in time to reach the colleges by the deadlines. This means the college/university must receive your application by the deadline—not just postmarked! Take into consideration slow mail, holidays, etc. Allow at least two weeks for mail from the posted deadline. • Make copies for your files. Follow the procedures set by your guidance counselors to make sure your transcript and test scores have been or will be sent to the colleges to which you are applying. • If applying for early decision or early action, send in your application now. Also prepare applications for back-up schools. Remember, if you are accepted under the early decision option, you are expected to enroll at that college and to withdraw all other applications. Submit financial aid information if requested from early decision/action candidates. • Register for the December/January SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject Tests, or December ACT if you have not completed the required tests or if you are not happy with your previous test scores and think you can improve. 	
<p>November</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the SAT Reasoning Test or SAT Subject Tests if appropriate. Don't forget to have test scores sent to colleges on your list by completing that section of the testing form. • Continue completing applications to colleges. Make copies of all applications before mailing the applications. • Go on line to www.fafsa.ed.gov to obtain a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and get your “PIN” number in preparation for completing the FAFSA in January. All college/university financial aid offices require that students and their parents complete the FAFSA to be considered for federally funded grant, aid, and work study programs. Some need based college/university scholarships will also require the completion of the FAFSA. Consider completing the FAFSA worksheet for practice to familiarize you with the process and the financial information required to complete the FAFSA forms. Remember you do not actually complete the FAFSA on line until after January 1 of your senior year. • Check to see if the colleges/universities to which you are applying require any other financial aid form as well as FAFSA. Some private colleges require the CSS Profile while other colleges/universities require their own financial aid forms plus the FAFSA. • Keep all records, test score reports and copies of applications for admission and financial aid. Do not throw anything away until at least the end of your first year in college. Having detailed records will save you time and effort should anything be lost or should you decide to apply in the future to other colleges and scholarship programs. 	
<p>December</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have official test scores sent to the colleges on your list if you have not done so. • Consult your school counselor again to review your final list of colleges. Be sure you have all bases covered. It is a good idea to make copies of everything before you drop those envelopes in the mail. If for some reason your application gets lost, you will have a back-up copy. File your last college application. • If you applied for early decision, you should have an answer by now. If you are accepted, follow the instructions. 	

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	If the decision is deferred until spring or you are denied, submit applications now to other colleges.	
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep working in your classes! Grades and courses continue to count throughout the senior year. • Request that your counselor send the transcript of your first semester grades to the colleges to which you applied only if specifically requested by the college/university. • Complete your FAFSA on line www.fafsa.ed.gov as quickly as possible after January 1. Parents and students, complete your income tax forms as soon as possible however it is fine to estimate using your previous year's tax forms. You will need those figures to fill out the FAFSA. Check to make sure that the colleges you selected do not require any other financial aid forms. If they do contact the college's financial aid office. 	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember to monitor your applications to be sure that all materials are sent and received on time and that they are complete. Stay on top of things and don't procrastinate; you can ruin your chances for admission by missing a deadline. • If you completed a FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within four weeks after submitting the FAFSA. Review the SAR carefully and check for any inaccuracies. If necessary, correct any items on the SAR and return it to the FAFSA processor (if a college transmitted your data directly, notify the college of any change). • If more than four weeks have passed after sending in your FAFSA and you have not received an acknowledgment, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (319) 337-5665 or 1-800-4-FED-AID. To identify you, they will need your name, social security number, address, and date of birth exactly as it was written on your FAFSA. • Complete scholarship applications. You may be eligible for more scholarships than you think, so apply for as many as you can. • Enjoy your final year in high school, but don't catch senioritis! 	
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stay focused and keep studying-only a couple more months to go! • You will begin receiving your admission decision letters. Do you need to visit or re-visit the colleges/universities offering you acceptance letters? If you were not accepted, is there an official appeal process? 	
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not take rolling admission applications for granted. (Some colleges do not have application deadlines; they admit students on a continuous basis.) These schools may reach their maximum class size quickly-the earlier you apply, the more availability there may be. • Review your college acceptances and financial aid awards. Be sure to compare financial aid packages in your decision-making process. • If you are positive you will not enroll at one or more of the colleges which accepted you please notify those colleges that you have selected another college. Keeping colleges abreast of your plans might enable those colleges to admit someone else. • If you know which college you will attend, send your tuition deposit and follow all other instructions for admitted students. • You must decide which offer of admission to accept by May 1 (postmark date). 	
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By May 1, decide on the one college that you will attend. By May 1, send in your tuition deposit to the college 	

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	<p>you will attend. Notify the other colleges that accepted you that you have selected another college.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If your first-choice college places you on their waiting list, do not lose all hope. Some students are admitted off the waiting list. Talk with your counselor, and contact the college to let them know you are still very interested. Keep the college updated on your activities. • Take Advanced Placement examinations, especially if you were enrolled in an AP class, and request that your AP scores be sent to the college you will attend. 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Request that your counselor send your final transcript to the college you will attend. Notify the college of any private scholarships or grants you will be receiving. • If you took dual credit courses through a local college/university be sure to request that an official transcript be sent directly from that institution to the college/university you plan to attend. • Know when the payment for tuition, room and board, meal plans, etc., is due. If necessary, ask the financial aid office about a possible payment plan that will allow for you to pay in installments. • Congratulations, you've made it through high school! Enjoy your graduation and look forward to college. 	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look for information in the mail from the college about housing, roommate(s), orientation, course selection, etc. Respond promptly to all requests from the college. • Ease the transition into college. Accept the fact that you'll be in charge of your academic and personal life. What you do, when you do it and how things get done will be up to you. You'll have new responsibilities and challenges. Think about budgeting your time and establishing priorities. Take charge of the changes that lie ahead and eliminate or minimize pressures. Go forth with confidence and enthusiasm, willingness to adapt and determination to succeed academically and personally. 	
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pack for college. Don't forget to include things that remind you of friends and family. Be prepared for the new opportunities and challenges. Have a great freshman year. 	

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