

Senior year

Summer before senior year

- ❑ Visit colleges in which you are interested.
- ❑ Finalize your list of colleges where you are planning to apply and list them in [Naviance](#) under the “College” tab, “Colleges I am Applying To.”
- ❑ Think about working at a summer job or doing a volunteer experience that would support your career goal. This looks great on college applications!
- ❑ Determine which teachers you would like to request a letter of recommendation from when you return to D'Evelyn your senior year:
 - Consider who you have a strong relationship with and who would write you a positive letter.
 - Consider what you would like to study and get a letter from a teacher in that discipline.
- ❑ Check the [Common Application website](#) and review the essay prompts from previous years to start planning your essay. Example prompts from previous years are:
 1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
 2. The lessons we take from this obstacle can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
 3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged an idea or belief. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
 4. Reflect on something someone has done for you that has made you happy or thankful in a surprising way. How has this gratitude affected or motivated you?
 5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
 6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
 7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you have already written, one that responds to a different prompt or one of your own design.
- ❑ Start brainstorming ideas for your college application essay(s) and consider completing your essays over the summer. This will put you in good shape to apply to colleges in the fall.

❑ Begin completing the [Common Application](#) (if you are applying to schools that accept it) and individual college applications (if applying to schools that do not accept Common Application).

Fall

❑ Meet with your counselor at the beginning of the year to discuss your college plan. Your counselor is your partner in this process and can support you in deciding where you are going to apply, review your college essays, assist in deciding who to ask for letters of recommendation and put together a plan to get into your top colleges.

❑ Please list all of the colleges you are applying to in [Naviance](#) under the “College” tab, “Colleges I Am Applying To.”

❑ Pay close attention to all deadlines and requirements for each of your colleges. College application deadlines start as early as Nov. 1.

❑ Attend college visits at D’Evelyn in the counseling office and other college information sessions around Denver.

❑ Attend the in-state and out-of-state college fairs.

❑ Consider taking the SAT or ACT again if you think you can improve your scores.

❑ Determine if you will be using the [Common Application](#). This can save you time if you are applying to two or more schools that take the Common Application. If so:

- Under the “College” tab in [Naviance](#), click on “Colleges I Am Applying To” and match your Common App to Naviance.
- On your Common App, be sure to complete the FERPA waiver.

❑ Start completing college applications online.

❑ Determine which teachers you would like to request a letter of recommendation from.

- Consider who you have a strong relationship with and who would write you a positive letter.
- Consider what you would like to study and get a letter from a teacher in that discipline.
- Complete the Rec Questionnaire for teachers in [Naviance](#). Ask early – some teachers limit the number of recommendations they write. Here’s the process:
 - First, ask your teacher, in person, if they would be willing to write you a letter (please allow a minimum of two weeks for the recommender to complete your letter).
 - Second, provide your teacher with the completed and thorough Rec Questionnaire (the link is found on the home page of Naviance on the left).
 - Third, formally request each letter in Naviance.
 - Click on the “Colleges” tab
 - Click on the “Letters of Recommendation” link

- Submit a new request, one per teacher (Be sure to mark General Request)
- Please write a thoughtful “thank you” to your teachers in No. 3. They go above and beyond to write letters; it is always recommended that you give them a handwritten thank you card as well.
- ☐ Determine if you will need a counselor letter for any of your schools.
 - Please set up a time to meet with your counselor for a 30-minute letter of recommendation “interview.”
- ☐ Finish revising your college essays.
- ☐ Apply to college
 - Submit your application (via [Common App](#) or directly to the college).
 - Confirm that your letters of recommendation are completed by checking in [Naviance](#).
 - Request your transcripts (please allow at least one week before deadlines). There is a \$3 fee per transcript. The fees will need to be paid before you can graduate in May.
 - Go to the “Colleges I am Applying” to link under the “College” tab
 - Click on the “Request Transcripts” link
 - If the application deadline falls over a break please request your transcript at least one week before.
- ☐ Fill out the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) as soon as possible after Oct. 1. This will primarily be filled out by your parents.

Winter

- ☐ If you have application deadlines that fall over Thanksgiving or winter break, please request transcripts via [Naviance](#) at least one week prior to each break.
- ☐ Do your best on final exams. First-semester senior year grades can make a significant impact on college acceptance or denial.
- ☐ Research and apply for scholarships. The scholarship list in [Naviance](#) under the “College” tab, “Scholarship Match,” is an excellent resource. The largest scholarships are generally given by colleges, but small, independent scholarships can add up if you devote some time and energy into finding scholarships that are a good fit.
- ☐ Enjoy winter break!! ☺
- ☐ The post-graduate secretary will automatically send mid-year forms and transcripts to all [Common Application](#) colleges. There is no fee and no need to complete a request.
- ☐ If you did not apply to your college via the [Common App](#) and you need a mid-year transcript sent, please put in your request to the post-graduate secretary in person.

Spring

- ❑ Remember that your senior year grades matter – colleges can and do take back acceptances.
- ❑ Make your final college choice. Most colleges notify students of acceptance and financial awards by April.
- ❑ Update all of the schools to which you have been admitted, waitlisted or denied in [Naviance](#).
- ❑ Complete your senior exit survey in [Naviance](#). Final transcripts will automatically be sent to the college you indicate in Naviance that you are attending.
- ❑ Bring all letters regarding scholarships and financial awards to the post-graduate secretary for inclusion in the graduation program (even if you decide not to attend that school).