

Senior Year Planning Checklist

Planning for College

Senior Year - Semester 1

Tips:

- Work hard to keep your grades up. College admissions counselors review the first semester closely.
- Prepare a cumulative high school resume (list of all school and community service, clubs/sports participation, awards earned, etc.)
- Ask individuals who know you well for letters of recommendation (teachers, counselors, coaches, bosses, etc.) in advance.

August

- Check with your counselor to verify that you meet all graduation requirements (diploma requirements, graduation pathway, number of credits, etc.) for your final year.
- Narrow down your post-secondary options
 - 4-YR/2-YR College or University
 - Intended Major: _____
 - College/University _____ Applied? _____ Accepted? _____
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- Investigate financial aid options
 - College Scorecard
 - [College Profiles: https://collegescorecard.ed.gov](https://collegescorecard.ed.gov)
 - Check out FAFSA application (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
*this is on the checklist for October
 - 21st Century Scholarship
 - Complete FAFSA by deadline: April 15
 - Complete Scholar Success Activities (12 activities total) by graduation
 - Complete Core 40 Requirements and GPA of 2.5/4.0
 - Check the Scholarship Scoop posted on Canvas
- Apply to schools you are interested in via CommonApp or through the school's website

September

- Take or retake the SAT or ACT *if necessary*
 - CHS school code: 150665
 - *Ask your counselor for a fee waiver if you qualify
 - Test dates and registration links are on the last page!
- Continue working on your college applications and schedule tours for schools that interest you (optional).

- Begin preparing materials you need to fill out the FAFSA form. The list is located [here](#).

October

- Visit college campuses - you can use up to 2 school days with documentation. See the front office for more details! Oftentimes, our Fall Break does not align with collegiate Fall Breaks. This is a great time to visit schools that are a little further away.
- Begin FAFSA application (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - Typically opens Oct. 1 of senior year
 - [What is FAFSA? https://learnmoreindiana.org/financial-aid/fafsa/](https://learnmoreindiana.org/financial-aid/fafsa/)
 - [FAFSA application](#)

November-December

- Continue working on the FAFSA application and attend the FAFSA Night if you need assistance with filling it out (date will be announced at a later time).

Senior Year - Semester 2

Tips/Reminders:

- Check school email and Canvas regularly for important updates regarding end of the year/graduation information
- Stay up to date on scholarships that are posted weekly on the senior Canvas page
- Let your counselor know if you do not plan to walk in the graduation ceremony
- Order Final Transcripts through Parchment AFTER graduation
- Order Ivy Tech dual credit transcripts AFTER graduation

January-February

- Start the semester out strong - colleges/universities will still review your second semester grades.

March

- Review financial aid offers from colleges.
 - Add up all costs for one year of school (including books, transportation, personal items, etc.)
 - Subtract your total in grants and scholarships
 - The remaining amount is what you will need to come up with for one year of college.

April

- Make your final choice! Most colleges require a deposit and require students to “commit” before May 1.

May

- May 1 is College Decision Day!
- Contact the school’s financial aid office to discuss payment options.
- Request your final transcript on Parchment AFTER graduation day.

Important Dates

- Graduation Practice: May 30th at 10AM
- Graduation: May 30th at 7PM

SAT Test Dates	Registration Deadline
August 24, 2024	August 9, 2024
October 5, 2024	September 20, 2024
November 2, 2024	October 18, 2024
December 7, 2024	November 22, 2024
March 8, 2025	February 21, 2025
May 3, 2025	April 18, 2025
June 7, 2025	May 22, 2025

Register [here!](#)

<https://satsuite.collegeboard.org/sat/dates-deadlines>

ACT Test Dates	Registration Deadline
September 14, 2024	August 9, 2024
October 26, 2024	September 20, 2024
December 14, 2024	November 8, 2024
February 8, 2025	January 3, 2025
*more dates will open for April-July	

Register [here!](#)

<https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>