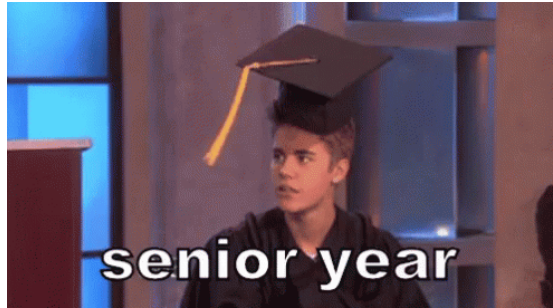


***Union
Catholic***

*School Counseling
Department*

**SENIOR
PLANNING TIMELINE**



ALL YEAR

- Register and take the SAT/ACT as appropriate. Students must register for these tests independently.
- *Is your college test-optional?*
It is important to be aware that many colleges/universities have embraced a “Test-Optional” policy, which allows the applicant to decide whether or not to forward their SAT and/or ACT scores to college admissions offices. These colleges assure that the absence of standardized test scores will not affect admissions decisions; nor will the absence of those scores affect decisions regarding merit scholarships. Emphasis will be on the nature of the academic courses chosen by the student and grades achieved in those courses well as other holistic factors.
 - We strongly recommend that students check the websites of each college in which they are interested to determine their standardized test policy.
 - Every school is different!
- Also, be aware that there are colleges/universities that still require standardized test scores:

How to register:

- SAT’s www.sat.org
- ACT’s www.actstudent.org

✓ Information Sessions, tours, and all necessary information are readily available on the college's websites—so many virtual options, as well!

✓ College Fair at Union Catholic in October

- Seniors and parents should keep in frequent touch with their counselor. Email is best. DON’T HESITATE, BE PROACTIVE.....COUNSELORS ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!!!
- Essays for college applications should already be in progress. Keep in mind that Early Action application deadlines begin *October 15* and continue through *November 1 & November 15*, so completion of required essays is necessary by the required application deadline.



NAVIANCE is a fantastic resource to help you initially make, and then narrow down your college list while also providing contact information for any college or university in which you may have an interest.

📁 Another year-round use of **NAVIANCE** is the local and national scholarship search engines found in the “Colleges” tab. Students/parents should continually monitor these sections of **NAVIANCE** to find and apply for various scholarships



ATHLETES interested in playing for Division I or II schools **MUST REGISTER ONLINE** with the **National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Clearinghouse**. The address is www.ncaa.clearinghouse.net.

- After registering, be sure to complete the [Athletic Release Form](#) found on the School Counseling webpage so that your transcripts will be sent to the NCAA
- *SAT/ACT scores are no longer required by NCAA to determine initial eligibility*



Students need to continue to achieve at their highest level! Students must maintain a solid **academic** course schedule and strong grades throughout their senior year.

Colleges will be requesting mid-term senior grades (in February) and final transcripts (June/July). *College acceptances (always conditional) have been reversed in situations where seniors did not maintain the quality of their academic performance.*



SEPTEMBER

- ☐ Attend the **UNION CATHOLIC COLLEGE INFORMATION NIGHT FOR SENIORS AND THEIR PARENTS/GUARDIANS**
 - Webinar recording will be posted on UC School Counseling website after the event for your reference
- ☐ Register for standardized tests as appropriate
 - SAT testing www.sat.org
 - ACT testing www.actstudent.org



Test dates, deadline dates, and testing locations are found on these websites
- ☐ Students should consult with their counselor if they are planning an **EARLY DECISION** application (binding) or an **EARLY ACTION** application (non-binding). Deadline dates are October/November depending on the college. Make appointments earlier rather than later!
- ☐ Students should start, continue, or complete working on college applications.



- If you want to save some time, find out what colleges are on the [COMMON APPLICATION](#) and you will complete only one application, which you can send to your desired schools (over 800 colleges/universities). For those colleges that are not on the Common App, you may visit the college website and complete their applications online.
- ☐ Students can begin submitting the UC Transcript Request and Release Form to the School Counseling Department (transcripts@unioncatholic.org) to meet Early Decision & Early Action deadlines

Be careful of DEADLINES! 🚨
 - ☐ Work on application **ESSAYS/PERSONAL STATEMENTS**: it is critical that you work on these early in the fall if you are considering applying Early Decision or Early Action.

OCTOBER

- ☐ **UC College Fair:** Students will have the opportunity during the school day to speak with over 50 college representatives at UC Annual College Fair in October. *Specific date can be found under “Important Dates” section at the bottom of the document*
 - List of attending colleges can be found on Canvas
 - Great opportunity to demonstrate interest and connect with your college representatives!
- ☐ **College Rep Lunch Visits:**
 - Starting in October, students will also have the opportunity to network with visiting college representatives during lunch periods in the cafeteria
 - List of dates and visiting colleges can be found on Naviance under “What’s New”
- ☐ Continue to take the SAT or ACT as appropriate.
- ☐ Seniors should consult with their counselor to refine their list of college choices.
- ☐ Attend virtual/in-person college open houses, college fairs, visit websites of colleges in which you are interested; almost everything you want to know about a college will be found on its website!
- ☐  Seniors are encouraged to keep a spreadsheet to record application deadlines to ensure they meet those deadlines and other college application requirements
- ☐ **SEARCH FOR SCHOLARSHIPS** 
 - www.collegeboard.org/scholarships
 - www.fastweb.com
 - [FastWeb Class of 2024 Scholarships](#)
 - Naviance

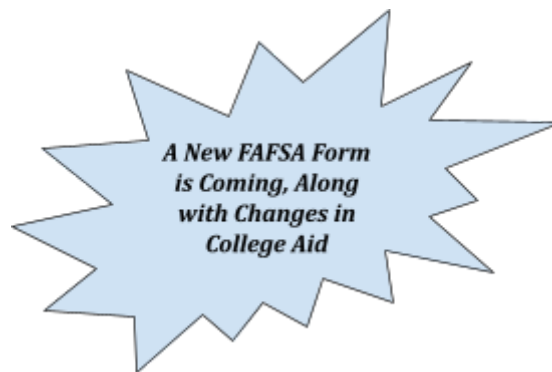
NOVEMBER

- ☐ Seniors continue to register and take SAT or ACT tests as appropriate.
 - ☐ Visit college websites, attend college fairs, etc.
 - ☐ Seniors continue to work on applications. Don’t put them off!
1. **Financial Aid Information Night 1: (virtual)** A college financial aid expert will answer questions and provide information about the upcoming FAFSA changes, as well as the types of financial assistance that are available including scholarships, grants, and loans

DECEMBER



Families are strongly encouraged to attend BOTH of our virtual FINANCIAL AID NIGHTS—dates can be found under “Important Dates” section



2. **Financial Aid Information Night 2: (virtual)** This workshop is designed to provide an overview on the importance of FAFSA completion. This will be an interactive support session where a financial aid expert will assist families with their FAFSA completion. This workshop will run for approximately 2 hours.



If applying for financial assistance to attend a PRIVATE college or university, you may be asked to complete the **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIP SERVICE FINANCIAL AID PROFILE (CSS Profile)**. This is a special filing requirement by **a number of PRIVATE colleges and universities** especially if you are applying **EARLY DECISION (binding)** and usually by October 1st.


**IMPORTANT! DO NOT CONFUSE THIS WITH THE FREE APPLICATION FOR
FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA)**

- ☐ Seniors continue to register and take SAT or ACT tests as appropriate
- ☐ Seniors continue to attend college representative lunch visits & college fairs

JANUARY

- ☐ Continue to fill out and complete FAFSA and CSS Profile (if applicable)
Pro-tip: College Financial Aid offices are great resources! Even if you don't end up attending that college, you can still reach out to them and they're happy to help!
- ☐ Avoid Senioritis! Your mid-year reports will be sent to your colleges soon, so make sure you finish the first semester strong.
- ☐ Continue to apply for scholarships! Submitting scholarship applications doesn't take as long as you may think and has a huge pay off!
 - ☐ **Another pro-tip:** Reach out to the School Counseling office of your community's *public high school* for a list of your community's scholarships; remember that you are a taxpayer in your community and entitled to apply for and receive scholarship awards if you meet scholarship donor requirements.

FEBRUARY, MARCH, APRIL

- ☐ Students begin to receive decisions from colleges (although some colleges wait until April 1st)---admissions decisions are often sent via email---**CHECK YOUR EMAIL REGULARLY!**
- ☐ Compare financial aid award letters and reach out to your college Financial Aid Offices, if needed. They're there to help!
 **Important:** Keep copies of your admissions decisions and scholarship/financial aid awards to be submitted to the counseling office
- ☐ Once the ***final decision*** has been made as to which college/university you will be attending, it's always helpful to inform all other schools that you have been accepted to that you will not be attending.
While you don't have to officially decline college offers, the sooner you let a school know that you will not be attending, the sooner that school can offer your spot to a student on the waitlist. It's the kind thing to do 😊
- ☐ Mark your calendars with important dates from your colleges: registration deadlines, housing deposits, and orientation
- ☐ Line up summer jobs, internships and volunteer opportunities

MAY



- ☐ May 1st (National College Decision Day) is generally the final date by which you must notify the college that you are going to attend.
- ☐ Check your email for important deadlines for registration and housing deposits!!
- ☐ Be aware of any summer orientation sessions that you must attend at the college in which you will enroll—plan accordingly 😊
- ☐ Be on the lookout from an email from School Counseling with directions on how to report what college you'll want your final transcript to be sent
- ☐ Advanced Placement Exams administered this month

Most importantly, breathe a sigh of relief. YOU MADE IT!!! CONGRATULATIONS!!!!



Pro Tip: send some gratitude to teachers, family members, and any other people who wrote recommendations for you or assisted you through the process! What you give, you get in return ★



JUNE, JULY, AUGUST

Enjoy your transition time before your next important step in your life!

2024-2025



September 2024

- ★ 9/18: Senior College Information Night

October 2024

- ★ 10/4: Union Catholic Annual College Fair-UC students only; during the school day
- ★ 10/15: Senior College Visitation Day

November 2024

- ★ 11/4: Financial Aid Info Night 1 (7pm-Virtual): A college financial aid expert from HESSA will answer questions and provide a more general overview about the types of financial assistance that are available including scholarships, grants, and loans. Important recent changes to FAFSA will also be reviewed and discussed

December 2024

- ★ 12/4: Financial Aid Info Night 2 (7pm-Virtual): This workshop is designed to provide an overview on the importance of FAFSA completion. This will be an interactive support session where a financial aid expert will assist families with their FAFSA completion. This workshop will run for approximately 2 hours.

May 2025

- ★ 5/21: Graduation Mass & Principal's Reception
- ★ 5/22: Class of 2025 Graduation

Transcript Request Deadline Reminders:

Any students planning to apply Early Action (non-binding) or Early Decision (binding) with November 1st or November 15th application deadlines must submit online transcript request forms by **October 11th** to allow time for processing

Any student that would like their high school records to be sent to the college *before* Thanksgiving must submit online transcript request forms by **October 31st**

Any student that would like their high school records to be sent to the college *before* Christmas/winter break must submit online transcript request forms by **December 1st**