

SENIOR POST-SECONDARY PLANNING TIMELINE

WHAT SHOULD I BE DOING DURING 12TH GRADE TO HELP MYSELF PREPARE FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL?



KEEP UP ON YOUR ACADEMICS THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR

- Don't senior slide! Continue to take rigorous courses and do well in those courses through the entire year. All colleges and universities and military branches will request a final transcript.

STAY ACTIVE AND ENGAGED

- Stay involved in activities, volunteering, and extracurriculars. Hold any leadership positions possible.

ATTEND YOUR 1:1 COUNSELOR MEETING

- Alphabet counselors will meet with each of their seniors to go over graduation requirements, ordering your cap and gown, making sure your credits are in line to graduate, and other important information. Don't miss this!

ATTEND THE COLLEGE FAIR

- Simley holds a college fair every fall that includes over 50 schools- 2-year, 4-year, technical, public, private, etc. Take advantage of the opportunity to talk to representatives and gather information!

ATTEND COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE VISITS AT SIMLEY

- Utilize the college representatives when they visit Simley. This is a fantastic way to show demonstrated interest, ask questions about campus, and get insight and tips on the application and admission process.

VISIT COLLEGE CAMPUSES

- Continue to make college campus visits. If you are between schools, try to complete overnight visits or more in-depth visits to help you make your decision. Getting on campus is one of the very best ways to figure out if a school will be a good fit for you or not.

APPLY TO COLLEGE

- Finalize your college list. This list should include schools in the safety, match, and reach categories.
- Make a master plan for applications and how you will organize yourself so that you are efficient and don't miss any important deadlines or steps in the process.
- Nearly all college applications are online. You will create an account on individual college websites so you can always start an application and come back to it later, if needed.
- Send your official transcript to colleges online through Parchment. Go to: www.parchment.com to create an account and send your transcript. There is a small fee attached.
- Write college essays, if needed. Not all schools require essays- check individual websites for requirements.
- Ask for letters of recommendation, if needed. Not all schools require letters of recommendation. Please check requirements before asking for letters. At most, you will need two letters.
- Send official ACT scores to schools through your student account at: www.actstudent.org.
- Pay application fee. Most colleges will charge around \$20-\$50 for an application to be processed, although many are free. If you are on free or reduced lunch, you can receive up to four fee waivers. See your counselor or Ms. Kimble if you fit into this category and need fee waiver forms.
- Check the status of your applications via application portals on individual college websites.
- Check-in with Ms. Kimble in the Career Center if you have any questions or concerns!



❑ COMPLETE COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS

- ❑ Retake the *ACT*, if needed. The exam is offered seven times a year and you can register for the exam at: www.actstudent.org. All colleges will always take your best score and expect to see more than one score. Seniors who need to retake the exam in the fall should complete the September or October in order to not run into any application deadlines.
 - ❑ Please note that students have four spots available to send their scores to colleges for free when they register. It is to your advantage to use these spots as sending official scores later will cost \$13/score report.
- ❑ If you are planning to attend a technical or community college they may use your ACT scores if you meet the appropriate benchmark scores. If your scores do not meet the benchmarks you will take the *Accuplacer*. The *Accuplacer* is a untimed placement test in English, reading, and math that makes sure you are college-ready and places you into the appropriate level course. This is an important exam to study for- get resources from Ms. Kimble!
- ❑ If you are planning on going into the military you will need to take the *Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Test (ASVAB)*. This can be taken with a recruiter or at Simley at the end of September or mid-April. The test is required for any student planning to enlist in any branch of the military but there is also a great Career Exploration Program that is connected with the exam.

❑ GET YOUR FINANCES IN ORDER

- ❑ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to be eligible for any federal and state grants, loans, or work study. The application opens on October 1st every year. The earlier you complete this, the better.
 - ❑ Add each college in which you are applying to the FAFSA.
- ❑ You will receive a financial aid award letter from each college you have sent your FAFSA to and been accepted.



❑ APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

- ❑ Check each college's financial aid website to look at institutional scholarship opportunities.
- ❑ Check in the community, at work, at your parent's work, at your bank, and at your church for scholarships.
- ❑ Apply for the BEST Foundation Scholarships in February. If there is one single scholarship to apply for- this is it! This is scholarship money only for Simley grads so it's an awesome opportunity!

❑ REGISTER WITH THE NCAA ELIGIBILITY CENTER

- ❑ If you think you will participate in NCAA Division I or II athletics in college, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at: www.eligibilitycenter.org.

❑ MAKE A FINAL DECISION BY MAY 1 ON WHERE YOU WILL ATTEND

- ❑ Confirm your enrollment and submit your deposit to your chosen college or university by May 1.
- ❑ Apply for housing (the earlier the better on this one!) if you plan to live on campus.

❑ TAKE AP TESTS

- ❑ Take the AP exams, if you have taken any AP courses this year.
- ❑ Your scores will be released in July and you will need to send your final score report to the college you have chosen to attend via your College Board student account.



❑ GRADUATE!

- ❑ Congratulations! You made it! Enjoy this special time you worked so hard for!
- ❑ Don't forget to send your final transcript to the college you have decided to attend!