

Senior College Planning Calendar

Your senior year is filled with admission applications, scholarship essays, financial information and the need to meet deadlines. Continue to build your resume by achieving academic success and participating in extracurricular activities. Colleges are looking for well rounded students. The college application process involves many details and paperwork. It is very important that you involve your parents with this process, so work together as a team!

August

If you qualify for Free/Reduced Lunch, renew it every year. It has several benefit
Review your career plans and decide which postsecondary school is best for you.
Save money from your summer job for college.

Reach out to community organizations to set up an opportunity to volunteer for them. List your top college choices. Consider a couple of safety schools and stretch ones too. Do NOT apply to EVERY school that interests you! Application fees can add up quickly!

Develop a list of 6-8 colleges that interest you, and then apply to maybe 4-5 of these colleges. Request admissions information and catalogs from the schools that interest you. Visit colleges! Nothing is better than being on a campus to know if it is right for you. Get letters of recommendation from teachers to include with your college applications. Start brainstorming ideas for your college essays.

Continue taking challenging courses. Schools don't like to see seniors who slack off!
Stay focused on maintaining, or better yet, increasing your GPA.

Register for at least one SAT and/or ACT Test in the fall of your senior year. Compare costs of schools that interest you. Contact colleges by phone, mail or email.

September

Mark your calendar with registration, admissions, and financial aid deadlines and fee
Determine if the schools that interest you have online admission applications.
Create folders for each school that interest you and keep the materials organized.
Begin writing drafts of your college essays. Ask a favorite English teacher for help.

Start completing early admission college applications.

Meet with school representatives who visit your high school.

Look at virtual tours of college campuses online, and attend area College

Fairs. If you haven't already taken the SAT and/or ACT, register for the test(s).

Attend the GMHS College Planning/Financial Aid Night.

Ask employers/teachers for letters of recommendation to support your applications. Get an FSA ID (a parent needs one too) and start gathering tax information to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) starting on October 1.

October

Take the SAT and/or ACT Test before the end of October if at all possible.

Continue working on your admissions essays.

If you haven't already done so, sign up for an FSA ID, to complete your FAFSA online. Let your parent(s) know that they will ALSO need an FSA ID.

Make sure to protect your FSA ID so that you will have it later when you need it. Keep copies of all financial aid and enrollment documents in a f

Contact the U.S. Dept of Education at 800-433-3243 for assistance completing the FAFSA.

Plan to attend a FAFSA preparation event (free FAFSA advice) near you. Complete your FAFSA online to determine your financial aid eligibilit

Watch for the e-mail notice indicating your Student Aid Report (SAR) is ready. Review your SAR for errors and make any corrections as indicated.

Visit your top school choices. If possible, make appointments with faculty, staff, and students.

Meet with your counselor to develop a college admission and financial aid application pla

Contact the financial aid offices at schools of interest to determine which forms they requ

Finalize portfolios, audition tapes, writing samples, or other evidence of talent if required.

November

Complete admissions applications by their deadlines.

If necessary, register to retake the SAT and/or ACT Test.

If you have not yet completed the FAFSA, follow a FAFSA Walkthrough tutorial on YouTube.

If you completed a FAFSA and did not receive a Student Aid Report (SAR), call 800-433-3243.

If you have received your SAR, review it for errors and make any necessary corrections. Request financial aid forms and applications. Double check the deadlines for submission. Complete applications for every scholarship for which you may be eligible. Follow up to ensure your employers and teachers submit their letters of recommendation. Stay focused on maintaining and increasing your GPA.

December

Finalize admission applications.

Research and apply for other financial aid, including grants and scholarship. Watch for admissions notices from schools to which you applied Early Action/Early Decision. Research housing and financial aid application deadlines for the college you plan to attend. Develop a college application resume to highlight your activities, achievements, etc. Organize scholarships, certificates, awards, etc. and create a portfolio to showcase them all.

January

Watch your GMHS email for scholarship applications and be sure to know their deadlines. Get started on identifying and completing scholarship applications before their deadlines! Do not let senioritis get a grip on you, finish your high school career on a strong note.

February

Be mindful of deadlines. Always submit information on time.

Rank your top school choices, and try to keep your list of schools to 6 or under! Research scholarships and apply before deadlines pass. Watch your GMHS email for these!

March

Check with the financial aid offices to ensure your paperwork is complete. Submit tax forms if the schools to which you are applying request them. Narrow your school choices and make campus visits. NOTHING beats an on-campus visit! Be on the lookout for acceptance letters. Big envelopes are typically better than small ones. Start looking for summer jobs, and save up money for your soon-to-arrive first year of college.

April

Compare financial aid award letters from the schools to which you have been accepted. Make your final decision, and mail in deposits. Contact the school concerning any question. Check with the school you've chosen about returning financial aid award letter. Notify the schools you have chosen NOT to attend. This will get them off your back! Plan for registration, orientation, and housing, and mark your calendar with important dates.

May

Be aware of orientation sessions that you must attend at the school in which you will enroll. Finalize your summer job plans, and make a plan to save a portion of your summer earnings. Prepare a realistic student budget for when you go off to college.

Complete the Senior Exit Surveys. Where are you going to school? How much \$ was offered? Complete a Final Transcript Request Form to have yours sent to the college you are attending. Request college transcripts for any CCP courses you successfully completed in high school.

June

Plan for college transportation.

Contact the financial aid office at your school to ensure all required paperwork is complete. Attend or register to attend college orientation.

Make sure thank you notes for graduation gifts are written.

Learn to do things like laundry, taking care of your car, balancing a bank account,

etc. **July**

Save money from your summer job.

Send "thank you notes" to everyone who helped you plan and prepare for college. Make copies of your financial aid forms, health forms, etc. to aid in resolving future issues.

Register for fall semester classes.

Prepare a contact list with addresses of friends and family members.

Make labels with your new address, some for you and some to share with others. Prepare for the new adventures that await you when you arrive on campus. Congratulations! It's time to get ready to start college!!