



12th Grade Future Planning Timeline

JULY/AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- ☐ Continue investigating colleges and researching and *finalizing your application list*. Create an organization method to keep track of deadlines and requirements for college applications- calendar, spreadsheet, document, etc.
- ☐ Schedule campus visits at the colleges that interest you. Seniors are allowed 2 college visit excused absences for college visits.
- ☐ Start your application profile in [Common App](#) or [Apply TX](#). Begin previewing applications and requirements. Generally, colleges will have their applications online by the beginning of August.
- ☐ Start brainstorming and drafting your college essay and personal statement. Share this with a trusted adult or English teacher to review grammar and topics.
- ☐ College Applications open starting AUGUST 1st, 2025 – **Create an account with personal email.**
 - The Common Application (4 year schools, private & public, in Texas and out of state): <https://www.commonapp.org/>
 - Texas Community Colleges & Texas 4 Year Public Universities: <https://applytexas.org/>
 - HBCU- <https://commonblackcollegeapp.com/>
 - Some colleges utilize their own application program.
- ☐ Update your Resume and/ or Activities List
- ☐ With any highly selective colleges & universities, consider Early Action or Early Decision admission as part of your admission strategy.
- ☐ If recommendation letters are requested for admissions, contact those individuals who can speak to your character. Give your recommenders two to three weeks to write your letter.
- ☐ Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse if you are planning to play college sports.
- ☐ Register for ACT or SAT tests in the Fall, if necessary.
- ☐ Attend the NorTex College Fair in September for additional college options.
- ☐ Check campus counseling websites or other websites weekly for additional scholarship opportunities.

OCTOBER

- ☐ Complete personal statements, Common App essays, and supplemental essays
- ☐ Attend a Financial Aid & FAFSA informational meeting on your campus.
- ☐ **FAFSA OPENS OCT. 1st**
- ☐ Begin your FAFSA application. For more information visit [FAFSA website](#).
- ☐ Check your school's counseling website to access scholarships and other important information.

NOVEMBER & DECEMBER

- ☐ Submit applications, recommendations and test scores to meet necessary Dec/Jan deadlines.
- ☐ Continue checking your school's counseling website to access scholarship and other important information.
- ☐ Consider sending in your applications prior to Thanksgiving if you are ready to do so.
- ☐ Order your cap, gown, tassel and other accessories for graduation. Follow campus procedures.
- ☐ Start working on college & university scholarship applications. Visit your college's financial aid and scholarship website and other important information.

JANUARY & FEBRUARY

- ☐ Request mid-year transcripts be sent to your colleges, if required.
- ☐ Check your college's financial aid and scholarship website to access scholarships.
- ☐ Check your school's counseling website to access scholarship and other important information.
- ☐ Make sure that all applications are complete and sent by the deadline date or sooner.
- ☐ Review Financial Aid options provided by universities in your college portal.

MARCH & APRIL

- ☐ Register to take appropriate AP exams. Follow campus procedures.
- ☐ Notices of acceptance or denial usually arrive from colleges by April 15. Be on the lookout!
- ☐ Check your school's counseling website to access scholarships.
- ☐ Respond promptly to notices of acceptance and financial aid through college portal, and/ or email.
- ☐ Make a final college decision, if required. Many colleges subscribe to a May 1st candidate reply date and deposit.
- ☐ Once you have confirmed your acceptance to your primary college, notify your remaining colleges that you wish to withdraw your application. This will free up openings for other students.

MAY/JUNE/AUGUST

- ☐ Take AP exams.
- ☐ Check your school's counseling website to access scholarship and other important information.
- ☐ Request your final transcript to the college you are committing to using the high school's transcript request link.
- ☐ Dual Credit students request a college final transcript also be sent to the college of your choice.
- ☐ Get vaccinated against bacterial meningitis. (All new college students must provide proof of the vaccination or attendance on campus will be denied.)