"Get Ready for College" Timeline

(Adapted From Ms. Ruth Drews' timeline—College Advocate Hillhouse HS, CT)

August-September

1) Schedule your Senior Meeting: Check your emails in August for link and schedule of meetings.
2) College Research:
    a. Make a list of at least 5 colleges (Be sure choices include; Reach, Safety, and Back Up options)
    b. Use websites, such as bigfuture.collegeboard.org or niche.com to help with research and creating lists
    c. Consider tuition breaks: WUE Schools, good neighbor states
    d. Consider if you want to take/retake the SAT/ACT: Do your research, "Do the colleges I want to go to require test scores?"
    e. College visits if possible, even for UNR!

3) College Applications:
    a. KNOW YOUR DEADLINES!!!!
        i. Early Action vs Early Decision (Binding)
        ii. Always try to apply by the Early Action deadline for your best chances. Usually, November 1st
    b. APPLICATIONS (Direct, Common App, or Coalition App)
        i. Always go with a direct application on the university website when an option
        ii. If Common App or Coalition App is needed, register for an account and begin ASAP, these application are extensive with multiple essays…do not procrastinate!
    c. ESSAYS
        i. Start writing your essays, especially if using the Common App—check your colleges online for suggested/required essay topics, utilize your teachers and me for help.
    d. LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION
        i. Only request a letter IF the college requires it for admission and ONLY request/submit the number of letters that are requested. Ex: If the application states one letter of rec, only submit the one letter, no need to go above and beyond as admissions recruiter read everything submitted.
        ii. Alert and ask your teacher/s or counselor to write your recommendation letter at least 2-3 weeks prior to needing the letter. Please be sure to complete and submit the "Senior Profile" with your request. (Located on the NS counseling page/12th grade link)
        iii. It is suggested to ask a teacher who knows you well and teaches in the subject in which you are looking to major.
        iv. Do not forget to send your teacher a THANK YOU.
    e. TRANSCRIPTS
        i. Official transcripts for applications must be requested through the district via SCRIBS. **Counselors do not send out transcripts**
    f. OFFICIAL TEST SCORES if submitting
        i. Must be sent directly through the testing body (ie Collegeboard (SATs and AP scores) and ACT)
4) Local Colleges:
    a. UNR application opens/ UNR Early Action Date: Nov 15th Application deadline: July 1st

b. TMCC Rolling Applicatio

October

CHECK YOUR FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES FOR YOUR SCHOOLS!

1. Do the FAFSA(Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
    a. OPENS October 1st for the 25-26 SY
    b. Required by all colleges and utilized for a variety of reasons, including scholarship opportunities.
    c. Complete regardless of income.
    d. Not for student loans ONLY; can be used to participate in Work Study programs AND for grants (free money for college)
    e. Early completion recommended, especially if grant eligible.
2. Attend Reno College Fair—Date: Sunday, Oct. 19 Time: 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Location: Reno-Sparks Convention Center, 4590 S Virginia St, Reno, NV 89502
3. Oct 31st: Deadline to apply for the NV Promise
4. Work on finishing early action college applications

November

1) General Early Action Deadline for many universities: Nov 1st/15th :. Check your schools for deadlines.
2) If still working on applications:
    a. Continue to DO YOUR ESSAY(S)! Get at least 2 adults to proofread it for you. (Start application Supplement essays if required).
    b. Complete a DRAFT of ESSAYS you need to write by Thanksgiving—at the latest!
3) Apply for Scholarships. There is a lot of free money $$$$ out there!!! Go to Counseling website for links to scholarships.

December

1. If you applied Early Action, notices of admission will generally come in December.
    a) If wait listed and college is a top choice, contact college! Send email to admission rep, stating why you want to attend this college. Shows dedication and interest.
2. GET ALL YOUR COLLEGE APPLICATIONS FINISHED AND SUBMITTED!
3. Finish all your SAT/ACT testing, if doing—Subject tests also, for selective colleges
4. Clear out/declutter your email. Important stuff will be coming in from your colleges
5. Do not lose your W-2 from your jobs (it comes in January—be alert)

January

1) Request 7th semester transcript through SCRIBS if required (see 12th grade page on counseling website)
2) Maintain good grades—grades are key for scholarship eligibility!
3) If you have applied to a rolling admissions school and have not heard, check your online application, call or email to be sure they have all your information.

February

1) Feb 15th : UNR application deadline for scholarship consideration. Must have admission application on file by Feb 1st for consideration.
2) Check all your financial aid deadlines and do not miss them!
3) Get ALL your college applications finished. Check to be sure nothing is missing.

4) Read your mail and KEEP important information, acceptance letters, ID numbers, and so forth

March

1) March 1st:NV Promise Scholarship training due
2) Take placement exams. TMCC and UNR will accept Accuplacer scores if you scored low on the ACT/SAT. The Accuplacer is **free** for your first time and $20 for retakes at TMCC.
3) Update your FAFSA. Enter final tax info and clean up all paperwork for financial aid
4) Check email OFTEN for important messages from colleges about missing information!
5) Do VERIFICATION QUICKLY if required.
6) SAVE MONEY for enrollment deposit typically due May 1

April—May

1) Spring: UNR Application deadline for the fall
2) May 1st: Community Service Due for NV Promise
3) For most 4 year colleges, final decision time! Compare financial aid offers. VISIT colleges if at all possible, get ready to SEND IN ENROLLMENT DEPOSIT by May 1st
4) Keep checking your mail, email, and NEW college email if assigned.
5) DO NOT LOSE any paperwork sent by your college. Yes, there is more—roommate questionnaires, health information, emergency notification, Orientation Registration. BE A RESPONSIBLE COLLEGE-BOUND STUDENT!
6) Email the colleges you will not attend, so other wait-listed students can have a chance to get in.
7) Thank all who helped you apply (in writing—good practice!)

June

1) Get that health insurance information taken care of to save yourself money!
2) Do all your paperwork—don't lose anything. Call your school if you miss something—this is your responsibility, and you are empowered to do it.
3) **Approx 2-3 weeks after graduation: Send your final transcript to your college via SCRIBS. This will NOT come from your counselor**
4) Continue to check your college email—colleges are saving money by sending you information electronically
5) CONGRATULATIONS! Go on to the next adventure of your life!