SENIORS

POST-SECONDARY PLANNING CHECKLIST

*indicates a step which should be completed in SchooLinks

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- [ ] **Take the SAT or ACT or retake to improve your score**

  While many colleges are moving to "test optional" it may still be beneficial to include in your application

- [ ] * **Narrow your list of colleges**

  Use SchooLinks to search colleges and create your Favorites List. 3-5 colleges is a good number and always have a back-up plan.

- [ ] * **Preview College Applications and Requirements**

  Most of these can be found in SchooLinks, Common App and directly on the College or University website. Look to see what materials are required with your application and review the requirements for admission.

- [ ] **Visit with your School Counselor**

  Make sure you are on track to graduate!

- [ ] * **Take every opportunity to explore colleges**

  Use college and career exploration tools in SchooLinks. Find information on Daily College Visits on SchooLinks, CCC whiteboard, TV screens and Instagram. Attend local college fairs. Visit campuses. Find more college info in the CCC

- [ ] **Create a checklist and calendar**

  - Standardized test dates
  - College application due dates (Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Decision)
  - Financial aid application forms and deadlines
  - Other materials you'll need for college applications (recommendations, transcripts, essays, etc.)

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

- [ ] **Some colleges have early deadlines**

  Keep track of your target college deadlines. Early Action, Early Decision, Regular Decision, Rolling Admission. Make sure you understand the difference!

- [ ] * **Begin working on your applications and materials**

  All steps can be completed in SchooLinks: link your Common App account, request transcript and Letters of Recommendation. Work on your college essay (usually required in English12 class).

- [ ] * **Paying for College Knowledge**

  Understand the FAFSA process and utilize information or events provided by the CCC including "Paying for College" and "FAFSA Night". Research scholarships using the Finance section of SchooLinks.

- [ ] **Direct Admissions**

  If you opted in to the Direct Admissions program, watch your emails for college qualification information.

DECEMBER/JANUARY

- [ ] **Many colleges have application deadlines as early as January 1**

  Be mindful of the deadlines for the colleges you are applying to.

- [ ] **Complete the FAFSA**

  FAFSA is currently scheduled to open December 2024 for your college freshman year of 2025/2026. You will need to complete this using your parent or gaurdian's financial information as well as filed tax information from previous years.

- [ ] **Apply for Local Scholarships through the SAHS Community Scholarship Program**

  Over $500,000 in scholarships are offered through a common application process. Scholarship window opens December 11th, 2024 and closes February 7th, 2025.

FEBRUARY - APRIL

- [ ] **Watch your emails!**

  Acceptance letters and financial aid offers will start to arrive. Review your acceptances, compare financial aid packages and visit your final choices, especially if you haven't already.

MAY

- [ ] **Decision Day!**

  May 1 is the date when the college you plan to attend requires a commitment and a deposit.

@SAHSCCC

Alison Schroeder

College and Career Center Specialist

schroedera@stillwaterschools.org
(651) 351-8012
E101 (CCC)

Mon - Fri **7:30am - 2:30pm**

SchooLinks

- Full calendar of College admission representative and military recruiter visits
- Scholarship information
- Applying to College information and resources
- Job Listings

CCC Webpage

https://sahs.stillwaterschools.org/services/college-and-career-center

- Full calendar of College admission representative and military recruiter visits
- FAFSA Information
- Military information and contacts
- Applying for college steps
- Information and recordings from past events: FAFSA and Paying for College

Instagram

@SAHSCCC

- All Announcements regarding rep visits, scholarship deadlines, FAFSA events, college fairs and workshops.

Daily College Visit Signup

From the Left Menu:

Select School -- Events

SchooLinks

Appointment with Alison