College Planning

for seniors

September

Narrow your list of colleges to between five and ten. A Senior Meeting will be scheduled for you to meet with your counselor about your college choices. If you haven’t done so, plan to visit as many of these colleges as possible.

Attend college visits at Central by signing up in the counseling office. The admission’s representative will talk about the college and answer questions.

College Requirements. Make a list of the application, testing, and financial aid requirements for each college.

Create a master list or calendar that includes:

- Tests you’ll take and their fees, dates and registration deadlines.
- College application due dates
- Required financial aid application forms and their deadlines (aid applications may be due before college applications)
- Other materials you’ll need (recommendations, transcripts, etc.)
- Your high school’s application processing deadlines (see senior timeline & college application process handouts)

Ask a teacher or counselor for recommendations if you need them. Give each teacher or counselor an outline of your academic record and your extracurricular activities 3-4 weeks before application deadlines.

October

Try to finalize your college choices.

Prepare early decision/early action or rolling admission applications as soon as possible.

If you’re submitting essays, write first drafts and ask teacher and others to read them. If you’re applying for early decision or early action, finish the essays for that application now.

Be sure to have your college admission test scores and transcript sent to the colleges to which you are applying well before the admissions deadline (at least 4 weeks before).

Use parchment.com to send your transcript to colleges. Give or send counselors any admissions forms at least two weeks before the colleges require them.

Register for the ACT/SAT if you haven’t taken it yet or would like to take it again. Be sure to send score reports to colleges. September is usually the last testing date for students applying Early Action or Early Decision.

If you can’t afford application or test fees, a counselor can help you request a fee waiver.

Complete at least one college application by Halloween. Some colleges have deadlines as early as November 1st.

Begin working on your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (www.fafsa.ed.gov) This should be submitted before March 1st.

Resources

www.collegeboard.org (SAT information)  www.actstudent.org (ACT information)
www.parchment.com (transcripts)
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November
Look for scholarship opportunities. Search online and check periodically with the counseling office for new scholarships.

Attend the scholarship workshop at CHS.

Continue to work on college applications and financial aid forms.

As you finish and send your applications and essays, be sure to keep copies or print online confirmation pages.

If you want to change your senior year course schedule after you submit your application, you must contact the colleges you applied to. Your senior schedule is viewed as a "contract." Colleges consider what you are taking for the year in their acceptance decision.

January
If the college wants to see mid-year grades, be sure to send your transcript again through www.Parchment.com. If you used the Common Application counselors will automatically submit mid year reports.

Continue looking for scholarship opportunities at the specific colleges to which you applied, as well as private organizations.

February
No senioritis, please! Just because you were accepted doesn’t mean you will be admitted! Colleges do look at second semester senior grades.

Compare Award Letters. Examine the financial aid packages you were offered.

Apply for local scholarships at www.gtrcf.com

March
Keep active in school. If you are wait listed, the college may want additional information about you - what you have accomplished between the time you applied and the time you learned of their decision.

Review Acceptance Letters. Go over all offers of admission, consider the pros and cons of each school and pick the college that fits you best.

Wait listed by a college? If you intend to enroll if you are accepted, tell the admission director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask whether funds will be available if you’re accepted.

April
You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. If you’ve not done so yet, visit your final college before accepting.

As soon as you decide on a college, notify your counselor of your choice.

Resources
www.parchment.com (transcripts)
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If you have questions about financial aid or housing offers, talk to your counselor or call the college.

May

Colleges cannot require your deposit or your commitment to attend before May 1. By that postmarked date, you must inform every college of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid.

Send your deposit to one college only.

June

Ask your high school to send final transcripts to your college through www.parchment.com

Resources

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www.parchment.com  (transcripts)