

## Senior Year Timeline

### August/September

- **Register for the SAT and/or ACT** if you didn't take it as a junior, or if you are not satisfied with your score and want to take it again.
- **Take a look at some college applications** and consider all of the different pieces of information you will need to compile.
- **Visit with your school counselor** to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements.
- **Take every opportunity to get to know colleges:** meeting with college representatives who visit your high schools during the fall, attending local college fairs, visiting college campuses. Seniors get two college visit days.
- **Narrow down your list of colleges** and consider all factors of each college such as admission requirements and costs of each institution.
- **Create a checklist and calendar** to chart due dates.

### October

- **Complete applications.** Some colleges will have deadlines as early as this month. We encourage all students to apply to their respective colleges before fall break.
- **Complete the transcript request form (gold sheet) for each college.** The gold sheet is how we in the guidance office know to send your transcript to the correct college.
- **Ask your counselor about fee waivers** if you are a student on free/reduced lunch or participate in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholars program.
- **Make sure ACT and/or SAT test scores are sent directly from the testing center.** Many colleges will accept test scores from the high school transcript. However, some colleges like IU Bloomington and Purdue will not. Scores must be sent to them directly from the testing provider.
- **Request personal recommendations from teachers, school counselors, or employers.** Recommendations can make the difference in admissions and especially scholarship consideration. It is best to give two weeks notice to potential recommenders to get the best quality of letter.
- **Research scholarship opportunities.** Most scholarships begin announcing their availability in October. Check the guidance scholarship newsletter, college websites, and national search engines like FastWeb for the broadest search.

### November/December

- **Keep checking for scholarships.**
- **If you are "wait-listed" by a college you really want to attend,** contact the admission office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your application.

## January/ February

- **Ask your guidance office to send first semester transcripts** to schools where you applied if the college requires it.
- **File the FAFSA.** Indiana has a deadline of March 10<sup>th</sup> for state aid, but some schools require the FAFSA to be submitted with no errors by March 1<sup>st</sup> or earlier. The sooner you complete the FAFSA, the sooner you will have an idea of your financial aid options.
- **If you are a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Scholar,** you must file the FAFSA and submit your affirmation by March 10<sup>th</sup> to remain eligible for the scholarship.
- **If you haven't applied to colleges you may want to attend yet, complete them.** Many colleges have firm application deadlines of January 1<sup>st</sup> or February 15<sup>th</sup>.
- **Attend Financial Aid Night and the FAFSA Help Night** to get help on understanding the financial aid process and completing the FAFSA.
- **Attend College Goal Sunday** if you need extra help completing the FAFSA.

## March

- **Don't slack in the classroom.** While most of your applications are completed and you are waiting on admission decisions, the college will want to see your second semester transcript. Poor grades can mean a withdrawal of an acceptance to college.
- If you are taking an AP course, **make sure you are registered for the AP exam,** which is given in May.

## April

- Colleges will send out financial aid award letters in March and April. **Read and compare financial aid offers carefully.** Use the "Compare Your Aid Awards" tool on College Board's website to see which school has made the best offer.
- **Decide which college to attend.** Most colleges have an acceptance deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- **Accept any financial aid offers you want and pay your enrollment deposit.** Most have a deadline of May 1<sup>st</sup>.

## May

- **Make sure to request a final copy of your transcript be sent to the college you will be attending.**

## June

- **Check to make sure all paperwork has been completed.**
- **Attend summer orientation at your college.**