

Suggested Senior College Planning Timeline

August

- VISIT COLLEGES!
- Make sure you are taking challenging courses your senior year.
- See your counselor to discuss colleges.
- Complete a Net Price Calculator (go to financial aid website at any college).
- Narrow down your college list to 6-8 colleges.
- Send ACT/SAT scores directly to colleges.
- Familiarize yourself with Naviance Student Colleges tab.
- Create an account on www.commonapp.org.
- Make a chart with all deadlines for your college applications and financial aid then FOLLOW THEM!!!

September

- Continue to visit colleges and schedule interviews if allowed.
- Register for ACT/SAT if not satisfied with your current score.
- Register for SAT Subject tests if college recommends or requires them.
- Sign up for college representative meetings in the Guidance Office.
- Work on college application essays and have an English teacher review them with you.
- If your college applications require recommendation letters, ask 2-3 teachers to write on your behalf then request these recommendations through Naviance Student. Please allow teachers at least 2 weeks to complete your recommendation letter. Provide a resume and any special instructions. Write thank you letters to the teachers afterwards and keep the teachers updated on your college decisions.
- Attend Westerville City Schools Financial Aid Night on Wed., Sept. 11 at North High School. Program is from 6:30pm-8:30pm.
- Get an early financial aid estimate at <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/estimate>.
- Search for scholarship opportunities through Naviance Student, fastweb.com, capex.org and The Columbus Foundation.

October

- Sign up for college representative meetings in the Guidance Office.
- Attend the Suburban College Fair on Sun., October 13th from 1-3:30 p.m. at Otterbein Univ.
- Apply now for Early Action or Early Decision. Your other applications are also welcomed early. Keep a copy for yourself. **Please be aware of deadlines. If applying early, deadlines will be around Nov. 1.**
- Request official transcripts at least 2 weeks before you need them sent.
- Create an FSA ID for student and one parent <https://fsaid.ed.gov/>.
- Complete the FAFSA at <https://fafsa.gov/> as soon as possible starting October 1, 2019. Students should select the application for the 2020-2021 academic year and students and parents should use 2018 tax information.
- After submitting your FAFSA for financial aid, you will receive an SAR (Student Aid Report) within four weeks. Review this document for accuracy very carefully.
- If required by college, fill in the CSS/Financial Aid Profile at <http://css.collegeboard.org/> (mostly for private colleges that meet 100% of demonstrated need).

***** **Make sure all ACT/SAT scores are sent directly to your college from the testing center**

November

- If necessary, register for the December ACT/SAT. Although you can take tests after December, a lot of colleges consider December to be the last test seniors can take. **Please be aware of the deadlines.**
- Keep up grades during senior year.
- Continue completing applications and following deadlines. GOAL: Have all applications completed by Thanksgiving, if you are not applying early.

December

- See your counselor to discuss any updates to your college list.

January

- Keep working hard in your classes.
- Submit Westerville City School's Community Scholarships applications.
- Request mid-year transcripts (if colleges you've applied to require this).

February

- Monitor all of your college applications and keep track of your notifications and deadlines.
- Continue to complete outside scholarship applications.

March

- Stay focused and keep studying - only a few more months to go. Please remember colleges have the right to rescind your admission and/or scholarships if your final grades do not reflect the student they admitted :)
- Review financial aid packages and explore loan options. If something has changed in your family's financial situation, you will need to contact each college and fill out a Special Consideration Form.

April

- You should have all of your college acceptances by April 1. Review your college options and financial aid packages very carefully as you make your final decisions. You will need to make a decision by May 1.
- Prepare for AP and IB exams.

May

- By May 1, decide on the one college that you will attend and send your tuition deposit to that college.
- Notify the other colleges that accepted you that you will not be attending. Your spot may go to someone else who wants it.
- AP and IB Exams
- Complete your Senior Graduation Survey in Naviance Student to indicate where you want your final high school transcript to go.

Senior College Planning To Do List for Families

Documents to Collect:

- Unofficial transcript
- Graduation Plan Progress available in PowerSchool
- Test dates for ACT/SAT/SAT Subject tests
- Past ACT/SAT/SAT Subject test results
- Results from the FAFSA4Caster (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/estimate>)
- List of colleges student is applying to
- Deadlines for college applications
- List of passwords
- Results from SAR from FAFSA
- Westerville Community Scholarships application (available in December)

Things to Do:

- Complete college applications - www.commonapp.org or colleges' website - (student task)
- Complete page 2 of Common Application (parent task)
- Complete credit check document with student
- Reviewing testing options with student
- Complete FAFSA4Caster
- Complete Net Price Calculator
- Complete FAFSA
- Complete CSS Profiler (if needed)
- Create a file for all college material (only for colleges where student is applying)
- Create a chart listing all colleges where student is applying and ALL deadlines for admission, financial aid, scholarships and special programs
- Attend Columbus Suburban College Fair
- Register with Naviance Student. Make sure you can log in (see your student's counselor with any issues)
- Familiarize yourself with the Colleges tab of Naviance Student
- Complete transcript request form (student task)
- Complete Westerville Community Scholarships application (student task)

Decisions to Make:

- Determine financial and geographic parameters for college
- Determine parameters regarding college visits (distance, number, time off work, etc)
- Determine parameters regarding number of colleges to apply to
- Will my child apply to a college Early Decision, Early Action or regular admission? See your counselor for more information

Meetings to Arrange:

- Counselor meeting to discuss college application/career plans (student task)
- Counselor meeting to discuss progress toward graduation (student task)

Conversations to Have:

- Academic expectations (focus on behaviors - amount of study time, asking for help, homework completion, etc. - try to avoid expecting a letter grade)

- Expectations regarding college mail (where it will be stored, reading it, etc.)
- Financial parameters for college
- Geographical parameters for college
- College visit parameters
- Expectations for signing up for college rep visits at school
- Student feelings about their college list
- The final college application list (where exactly is the student applying?)

Things to Watch Out For/Check Up On:

- Periodic communication about events, deadlines, etc. from counselors
- Request ACT/SAT scores be sent to colleges
- College representative visits to the high school
- Complete Senior Information Sheet and return to Guidance (student task)
- Ask teachers for recommendations (student task via Naviance Student)
- Request transcripts (student task)

Events to Attend:

- Westerville's Financial Aid Night at North High School on Wednesday, September 21 @ 6:30.
- Columbus Suburban College Fair at Otterbein University on Sunday, October 7 from 1 to 3:30 p.m.
- Columbus Kiwanis College Fair at COSI on Monday, October 9 from 6 to 8 p.m. (if you cannot make it to the Columbus Suburban College Fair).
- Learning Differences College Fair at Gahanna Lincoln on Tuesday, Oct 10 from 6:30 to 8 p.m.
- National Visual and Performing Arts College Fair on Monday, October 22 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Xavier University's Cintas Center (Cincinnati).