



Senior College Schedule and Checklist

Summer- October

- **Visit colleges that interest you!** With the recent pandemic, COVID-19, there are now many colleges that are doing virtual tours. If you are unable to visit campuses, try these sources for virtual tours:
 1. <https://www.youvisit.com/> <http://www.ecampustours.com/>
 2. <https://www.campusreel.org/>
 3. <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/u/1/d/1sO7pVos0EvK0BvXoMbnyg00K6r7hXbOQE0HNXF4N4eM/htmlview?usp=sharing&fbclid=IwAR1Vr3WcwpwflVMsaXnzIMq9ibN3oMMAG8x02F0w6o4nsWr2PSITkenQoqM>
- **Submit Your FAFSA!!!** You will be able to submit your **FAFSA starting October 1st!** This step is VERY important for grant money. Money is first come first serve. This needs to be done to meet school and state aid deadlines and to be eligible for the most amount of aid. Go to <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa> Remember the FAFSA is FREE to fill out. NEVER pay a fee to submit your FAFSA. Keep copies of all the forms you submit. You will need your prior year taxes done before you can complete the FAFSA. A parent and student will have to fill out the FAFSA information online. KEEP YOUR LOGIN INFORMATION! You will need it EVERY YEAR to fill out the FAFSA again. If you are unable to fill out the FAFSA online, there is also a paper form.
- Finalize your list of colleges. Be sure your list includes "safe" schools as well as "reach" and realistic schools. Go to college websites and be aware of ALL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS (Be aware that all colleges are different). Contact colleges to let them know you are interested. Gather application materials for colleges and

scholarships. Organize materials into separate files by the college. Consider creating and keeping a spreadsheet to track college and scholarship information.

- **Create A Common Application account at www.commonapp.org.** Depending on where you are wanting to apply- this application can cover several colleges with one app! BUT make sure the colleges you are interested in are on this site. If they aren't there is no need to fill this out!
- **Keep a calendar of all admission and scholarship deadlines and other important dates.** PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!
- If you plan on competing in **Division I or II college sports** and want to be eligible to be recruited by colleges, you must register with the NCAA Clearinghouse [here](#).
- **Take part in activities you enjoy and add them to your college and scholarship applications**, ie: volunteering, jobs, internships, passions, etc...
- If an **essay** is required or recommended for a college or scholarship application, **work on it now!** This will save you a great deal of time during your busy senior year.
- **Keep your grades up!** Fall grades are important for mid-year reports!
- **Be careful not to slack off in the 2nd semester!** Some colleges will take back scholarships if your grades decline too much in the 2nd semester.
- **Start working on a resume.** Some colleges will ask for this.
- **Research college majors and careers.** You can do this at www.kheaa.com .
- **Continue to take the ACT, SAT, or the CLT Exam.** This is the #1 way to receive college scholarships! More on this in the testing section of this website.
- **Research College Scholarships at:** emails from your counselor throughout the school year, the FCA Counseling page are great ways to start but do the legwork to search for opportunities beyond what you might find here.. Financial Aid and Scholarships webpages of your top choice colleges, www.fastweb.com, www.scholarships.com, www.cappex.com.
- **Scholarship deadlines are typically between October and April of your senior year.**
- **Get started on your applications** right away if you plan to apply through an **Early Decision or Early Action Program**. Deadlines for early applications tend to fall in **October or November**.
- **Get organized!** If you haven't already. Organize your spreadsheets of colleges, scholarships, etc. Create a calendar of deadlines!

- **Begin asking for letters of recommendation** to include with your admissions and or scholarship applications. Ask advisors, teachers, coaches, and employers. Give them plenty of time to meet your deadlines and make sure to provide them with stamped and addressed envelopes. Ask people who KNOW YOU WELL. They are the ones that can write the best recommendation letters and make them personal!
- **Attend college fair events!** We will send out dates and trip information for opportunities in our area..
- **Meet with Admissions Representatives from colleges and universities.** Some of them will be coming to various engagements and lunches throughout the year.
- Continue or Start working on your college essays. Write essays that focus on your experiences and make you stand out from the crowd.
- Update (or continue) working on your resume.
- Take charge in your extra-curricular activities and continue to demonstrate leadership.
- Study, practice, and CONTINUE to take the ACT, SAT, or CLT! Continue to try to raise your score!
- **Visit your top school choices/ go on their virtual tours.** Talk to some current students, faculty, and staff if possible.
- Find out which **financial aid applications your college choices require.** Their admission advisors can tell you this.

NOVEMBER

- **College Application Deadlines are approaching. Make sure you know and follow the deadlines to have paperwork turned in.**
- Make sure you are working on your **community service hours.**
- **Search and apply for scholarships.** Check in the Scholarship Tab for Local scholarships..
- **Double-check college admission and financial aid priority deadlines.** Colleges will not determine financial/scholarships until you have been admitted.
- Remember student and parent should create an account on FAFSA. Go to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa> to create your accounts. Also, remember to KEEP YOUR LOGIN INFORMATION! You will need it every year.

- **All males must apply for Selective Service Registration** to receive financial aid.
More details at www.sss.gov

DECEMBER

- Confirm materials have been received by colleges, including letters of recommendation, official test scores, and transcripts. You can contact the admissions office at the college you will be attending. They do not let me know what all they have received.
- You can find free Financial Aid Calculators on many college websites.
- Watch deadlines for scholarship applications. Continue to search and apply for scholarships.
- Some colleges include your first-semester grades as part of your application folder. This is called the mid-year grade report.
- To request transcripts from FCA to be sent to colleges, please the school counselor nick.secula@fcfalcons.com

FEBRUARY

- Contact your college and confirm that all necessary application materials have been received.
- Rolling admissions may be an option but **WATCH February 15th financial aid deadlines**, some scholarship deadlines are even earlier. make sure you know and follow the deadlines to have paperwork turned into the college you are applying.
- Be careful with Senioritis! Colleges want to see strong second semester grades!

MARCH

- Visit colleges to which you have been accepted if you still need help making a decision!
- Turn your community service hours in! Remember this is a graduation requirement!

- Take the ACT again if needed for extra scholarship money.

APRIL

- Many award decisions and financial aid award letters arrive this month, read everything you receive carefully, as some of it may require action on your part.
- **Didn't get into the college you wanted? On the Waiting List?** Call the admissions office and ask if you can be admitted conditionally. Let them know of your continued interest in the college and update them on your spring semester grades and activities. **Fill out the necessary paperwork to do so and get it back to them ASAP!**
- Compare Award letters from colleges.
- Make a final decision on a school and **submit enrollment forms and deposit checks before May 1st!**
- **Sign and return award letter/financial aid packages by the deadline.**
- **Notify each of the schools to which you were accepted that you will not be attending in writing so that your spot can be freed up for another student.** Send them a thank you for helping you with this process.
- If you are not planning on going to college, meet with me to let me know your plans and discuss your options.

MAY

- **Study hard for final exams!**
- **Request from SKYCTC, FHU, Harding, York College, Florida College** (if you took DE classes) your **final transcripts**. Let us know what college you will be attending so we can send the transcript to the correct college! Take the ACT again if there is a possibility for more scholarship money.
- Thank your advisors, teachers, coaches, and anyone else who wrote you recommendations or otherwise helped with your college applications.

- Finalize summer plans: work, internships, travel, community service, etc.
- Finalize your housing plans for next year and shop for items you will need.
- Sign up for and attend orientation (even if it is online orientation!) at the college you will be attending in the fall.
- **Graduate!**