

College Planning Timeline 12th Grade Parents

Fall

- Review the Senior Year Student College Planning Timeline with your child to make sure he is on track and tasks are completed in time.
- Fall Break and Thanksgiving Break are good times to visit the top schools on your child's list.
- Together, go over the admission requirements and deadlines for each school to which the student is applying.**
- Go over options for Early Decision (ED) and Early Action (EA). Determine if that is an option you and your child want to pursue.**
- Make a family calendar with application, scholarship and financial aid due dates.**
- Apply for any college application fee waivers directly through each college. If you've received an SAT fee waiver, you may be eligible for an application fee waiver.**
- Attend a college fair or college open house.**
- Take note of scholarship applications due in November and December.**
- Assure your child you are there to support them in their college application process.
- Offer to proofread applications, and make sure they take advantage of editing offered by all Vanguard English teachers.
- Review your child's list of colleges and make sure it includes a safety school. A safety school is a school that provides both certain admission and affordability. If necessary, help your child find a few more colleges to add to the list.
- Together, register now for ACT, SAT Reasoning, or SAT Subject Tests in the fall. Early registration will ensure availability of the best locations and dates.**
 - REMEMBER: The December test date is the last opportunity to meet application deadlines.**
- Check the **Cost of Attendance (COA)** for each of your child's college choices.
- Beginning October 1, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is available <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>. Parents and students will need separate PIN numbers to apply online.**

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Winter

- Continue to review the Senior Year Student College Planning Timeline with your child to make sure he is on track and tasks are completed in time.
- Attend a Financial Aid Night at your child's school and/or a community event such as College Goal Sunday.**
- Note: Most priority financial aid deadlines are in February.**
- Look for the Student Aid Report (SAR) about four weeks after you've completed the FAFSA. Make any changes and return it. If you don't receive it, call 800-433-3243.**
- When the last application is complete, celebrate!

Spring

- Continue to review the Senior Year Student College Planning Timeline with your child to make sure he is on track and tasks are completed in time.
- Compare aid award letters. Contact financial aid officers if you have questions. If you have not received enough aid, ask if other options are available.
- Together, review all acceptances and aid letters. Notify all colleges of acceptance or rejection of admission or financial aid offers by May.**
- Resist the urge to open letters addressed to your child or to check his application status on the applicant portal.
- If you have not received financial aid awards information from a college within a month of receiving an acceptance letter, contact the college's financial aid office immediately.**
- Send a deposit to the chosen college.**
- If your child is not admitted to any of the colleges to which he or she applied, make an appointment with the school counselor immediately to discuss options.**