

# 2017/2018 SENIOR TIMELINE FOR COLLEGE PLANNING

This year, you will be making big decisions in regard to your post-secondary educational options. It is a year filled with admission applications, scholarship essays, financial aid information, and deadlines. It is very important that you involve your parent(s)/guardian(s) with this process. Throughout your senior year, continue to build your resume by achieving academic success, as well as participating in extracurricular activities. Colleges are very interested in well-rounded students. Remember, senior grades do count and it is another excellent opportunity to prepare for the rigor of college. Keep updating your Naviance account as to the status of your admissions to colleges and where you have decided to attend. When you have made your final college choice...stop by to get your star in the counseling office window!!

**A senior meeting will be scheduled with your school counselor in Sept./Oct.  
Come prepared with questions regarding your post-secondary plans.**

*\*Please note: the info below (with important links) can also be found in your Naviance Family Connection account\**

## September

- Mark your calendar with registration, admissions and financial aid deadlines and fees
- Apply online to schools as soon as possible; **September 1<sup>st</sup>** for UW system schools [www.apply.wisconsin.edu](http://www.apply.wisconsin.edu) and for any Wisconsin Technical College [www.witechcolleges.org](http://www.witechcolleges.org)
- Attend the Financial Aid Informational Meeting with your parent/guardian on **September 25<sup>th</sup>** - 7pm in the GHS Auditorium
- Meet with college representatives who visit GHS - watch for college visit dates in Naviance
- Visit or revisit your top school choices & if possible, make appointments to meet directly with faculty
- Register to take/retake ACT/SAT if needed
- Contact ACT and/or SAT to send official test results to colleges (*unless this was done when you originally registered for the tests*)
- Ask employers/teachers/school counselors for letters of recommendation (**if needed**) with at least 2 weeks notice - it's helpful to provide a short resume or list of what you'd like highlighted in your letter
- Check Naviance, the scholarship board outside the counseling office and the colleges you are applying to for scholarship opportunities
- AFTER YOU APPLY
  - Add the college(s) you applied to in Naviance under "Colleges I am Applying To"
  - Turn in a completed "GHS Transcript Request Form" to Mrs. Rieck in the counseling office - *this form can be found on the GHS counseling webpage or you may pick one up in the counseling office. Transcripts and other documents will then be sent out within a week.*

## October/November

- Continue to work on your online college applications
- Attend the Milwaukee National College Fair at the Wisconsin Center on Sunday, **October 15<sup>th</sup>** (3pm-6pm) - you must pre-register (<https://www.gotomyncf.com/Registration>)
- Create your FAFSA ID at [fsaid.ed.gov](http://fsaid.ed.gov) (*your parents must also have their own*), as this will serve as your electronic signature for FAFSA specific forms/notes
- Complete your FAFSA online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) as early as **October 1<sup>st</sup>** - you can use your parent's 2015 tax return information (*contact 1-800-4-FEDAID for assistance if needed while completing the FAFSA or attend a College Goal Wisconsin Event - [collegegoalwi.org](http://collegegoalwi.org)*)

## December/January

- Finalize admission applications if not already completed
- Check with your college(s) and in Naviance for scholarship and financial aid opportunities

## February

- Register for Advanced Placement (AP) exams
- Rank your top school choices
- Check if your college(s) require a mid-year transcript & notify Mrs. Rieck if you need one sent
- Local Scholarship “window” for GHS seniors opens on **February 1<sup>st</sup>** - all materials are available online

## March/April

- Local scholarship “window” ends **March 1<sup>st</sup>** - all materials are due back in the school counseling office no later than this date at 3:00 pm
- Compare financial aid award letters
- Make your final school decision and mail deposits as required
- Check with the school you've chosen about returning financial aid award letters
- Out of courtesy, notify the schools you have chosen NOT to attend so they can open spots to others
- Plan for registration, orientation, and housing

## May

- Typically, you must decide which offer of admission to accept by **May 1<sup>st</sup>**
- Take AP exams in May on scheduled days (*apcentral.collegeboard.com for dates*)
- Be aware of any spring/summer orientation sessions that you must attend at the school in which you will enroll and make plans accordingly
- Finalize your summer job plans and make a plan for saving a portion of your summer earnings
- Senior Scholarship Presentation Ceremony May 16, 7 pm in the GHS Auditorium
- Complete senior survey, informing the counseling office where your final transcript will be sent
- Know when the payment for tuition, room & board, meal plans, etc. is due. If necessary, ask the financial aid office about a possible payment plan that will allow you to pay in installments

***Congratulations, you've made it through high school!***

## Summer

- Look for information from your college about housing, roommates, orientation, course selection, etc. Check your email regularly and respond promptly to all requests from the college!
- Ease the transition into college - accept the fact that you'll be in charge of your academic and personal life including what you do, when you do it, and how things get done. Think about budgeting your time and establishing priorities. Take charge of the changes that lie ahead and eliminate or minimize pressures. Go forth with confidence and enthusiasm, willingness to adapt, and determination to succeed academically and personally.
- Pack for college. Don't forget to include things that remind you of friends and family. Be prepared for the new opportunities and challenges and make it a great freshman year (*yes, you're a freshman again!*)