**August/September**

* Register for the ACT or Compass if you didn’t take it as a junior, or if you aren’t satisfied with your score and want to take it again. (your counselor can help with fee waivers if qualified)
* Take every opportunity to get to know colleges: meeting with representatives who visit your high schools during the fall, attending local college fairs, visiting campuses (if possible).
* Narrow down your list of schools. Make sure you have the application and financial aid information for each school. Find out if you qualify for any scholarships at these schools.

**October**

* Some colleges will have deadlines as early as this month. These would include rolling admission, priority, scholarship, early decision, and early action deadlines.
* If you cannot afford the application fees that many colleges charge, ask your counselor to help you request a fee waiver.
* Research possibilities of scholarships. Ask your counselor, your colleges, and your religious and civic groups about scholarship opportunities. You should ***never*** pay for scholarship information. Get your hands dirty and do some researching. MILLIONS of dollars in scholarships, every year, are not distributed just because kids don’t apply for them.

**November**

* Finalize and send any early decision or early action applications due this month. Have a parent, teacher, counselor, or other adult review the application before it is submitted.
* Every college will require a copy of your transcript from your high school. Ask your counselor to send official transcripts to the colleges you apply to.
* Make sure your ACT scores have been sent directly from ACT

**December**

* Begin to organize regular decision applications and financial aid forms, which will be due in January and/or February.

**January**

* Many popular and selective colleges will have application deadlines as early as January 1. Others have deadlines later in January and February. Keep track of and observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork.
* If necessary, register for the February ACT (some colleges will be able consider it).
* It is time to file the FAFSA (no later than Feb 1) at FAFSA.ed.gov. Do not pay any service to do it for you, it is the **Free** Application for Federal Student Aid. With the FAFSA a significant portion of aid that may be granted is first come first serve, so file as quickly as possible.

**Feb/March/April**

* While most of your applications will be complete and you are waiting to receive admission decisions, don’t slack in the classroom. The college that you do attend will want to see your second semester transcript. No Senioritis!
* Acceptance letters and financial aid offers will start to arrive. Review your acceptances, compare financial aid packages, and visit your final choices, especially if you haven’t already.

**May**

* Make sure that you have requested in writing that your final transcript be sent to the school you will be attending.
* If you are “wait listed” by a college you really want to attend, visit, call and write the admission office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your application.

\*\* All year- apply for scholarships. They will be offered from your high school, colleges, area businesses and online search engines such as fastweb.org, finaid.org, and others.