

# ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING OFFICE



## Senior Year Calendar Class of 2016

### ELGIN HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING STAFF



Your senior year of high school is the most important time in your life. You are preparing to make plans for your future: college, military, or career/workforce. You will need to decide your path, which colleges and universities to apply to, send in your applications and explore career, financial aid, and scholarship options. Use this senior year calendar to keep track of your progress and upcoming deadlines

#### Guidance Counselor Alpha Order

Mrs. Matei	Divisional
Mrs. Saldua	Guidance Secretary
Mrs. Spear	A - Ca
Mrs. Tomaso	Ce - Gay
Mr. McCarthy	Ge - Leon
Mrs. Ginter	Leop - Pac
Mrs. Capobianco	Pal - Santa
Miss Losowski	Sante - Z
Mr. Aburto	ELL & ELL Exited Foreign Exchange

### SENIOR YEAR TIME-LINE

September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meet with your School Counselor to verify credits and discuss future plans. Your counselor can help you stay on track with admissions requirements. Make sure they know which colleges you want transcripts, score reports, and letters sent to. Give your counselors any necessary forms much earlier than the actual deadlines so they'll have time to send the forms in.</li> <li>Fill out "Transcript Release Form" in guidance.</li> <li>If appropriate, register for October or November SAT and ACT. (<a href="http://actstudent.org">actstudent.org</a>)</li> <li>ACT Score Ranger: Highly Selective (30-36), Selective (26-29), Traditional (22-25), Liberal (19-21), Open (18 and below)</li> <li>Request letters of recommendation, if needed.</li> <li>Continue to visit campuses and interview with college admissions representatives.</li> <li>Request applications from all the schools to which you might apply.</li> <li>Create an account with The Common Application if the colleges you've selected use it.</li> <li>Create a chart of deadlines. Pay particular attention to early decision, early action, and preferred application deadlines.</li> <li>Work on your college essays.</li> <li>Try to assume a leadership position in an extracurricular activity.</li> <li>Work to strengthen your academic record.</li> <li>Meet with College Representatives visiting EHS (must have a guidance pass).</li> </ul>
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Discover Your Personality Type: <a href="http://www.quistic.com/personality-type/test">http://www.quistic.com/personality-type/test</a></li> <li>Continue to research postsecondary options. There are many great careers that will pay high salaries to those who have trade or technical skills. <a href="http://Elgin.edu">Elgin.edu</a> and <a href="http://RWM.org">RWM.org</a>—directory of <i>accredited vocational and technical schools</i>.</li> <li>Take advantage of college fairs and virtual tours. Attend <b>ECC College Night on October 6th 6-8pm</b></li> <li>Attend <b>College &amp; Career 101</b> for Parents of High School Students <b>Oct. 20, 2015 5:30-8:00pm</b></li> <li>Attend <b>EHS College Application Week Oct. 27-29</b></li> <li>Research financial aid and scholarships. Do your parents' places of employment offer college scholarships for employee children? <b>Undocumented?</b> See your counselor for options.</li> <li>Get your college essay in shape. Get feedback on your writing from a school counselor and a teacher.</li> <li>Request your high school transcript and check it for accuracy.</li> <li>Keep track of all application components and deadlines: applications, test scores, letters of recommendation, and financial aid materials. An incomplete application will ruin your chances for admission.</li> <li>Order Caps and Gowns by: TBD</li> <li>Volunteer for <b>Parent Teacher Conferences Oct. 22-23</b></li> </ul>

November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register for the December SAT or ACT if appropriate.</li> <li>• Take the November SAT if appropriate.</li> <li>• Don't let your grades slide. It's easy to be distracted from school work when working on applications. Senior slump can be disastrous for your admissions chances.</li> <li>• Make sure you've submitted all components of your applications if you are applying to colleges with November deadlines</li> <li>• <b>College Smart Fair</b>; learn how to pay for college and how to fill out FAFSA <b>ECC, Building E Nov. 7</b></li> <li>• <b>How to navigate paying for college: <a href="http://elgin.edu/financialliteracy">elgin.edu/financialliteracy</a></b> free online course!</li> <li>• Put the final touches on your application essays, and get feedback on your essays from counselors and/or teachers.</li> <li>• Continue to research scholarships.</li> </ul>
December— January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete your applications for regular admissions.</li> <li>• Make sure you've had your test scores sent to all colleges that require them.</li> <li>• Confirm that your letters of recommendation have been sent.</li> <li>• Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Financial Aid) <a href="http://fafsa.gov">fafsa.gov</a>. <b>Be sure to attend EHS Financial Aid Nights. Dates here.</b></li> <li>• If you are accepted to a school through early decision, be sure to follow directions carefully. Submit required forms, and notify the other schools to which you applied of your decision.</li> <li>• Continue to focus on your grades and extracurricular involvement.</li> <li>• Continue to keep track of all deadlines and application components.</li> <li>• Continue to research scholarships. Apply for scholarships well in advance of deadlines.</li> </ul>
February— March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you submitted the FAFSA, you should receive the Student Aid Report (SAR). Carefully look it over for accuracy. Errors can cost you thousands of dollars. <b>Be sure to attend FAFSA Award Letter workshops: April 13, 14, &amp; 28.</b></li> <li>• Contact colleges that didn't send you a confirmation receipt for your application.</li> <li>• Don't put off applying to schools with rolling admissions or late deadlines -- the available spaces can fill up.</li> <li>• Talk to your school about registering for AP exams.</li> <li>• <b>Experience ECC</b>, explore ECC's campus, watch real college classes in action, and more. <b>Building G, Feb. 17 at 6:00pm</b></li> <li>• Keep your grades high. Colleges can revoke offers of admission if your grades take a nosedive senior year.</li> <li>• Some acceptance letters may arrive. Compare financial aid offers and visit campus before making a decision.</li> <li>• Don't panic; many, many decisions are not mailed out until April.</li> <li>• Continue applying for appropriate scholarships.</li> </ul>
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep track of all acceptances, rejections, and waitlists.</li> <li>• If waitlisted, learn more about waitlists and move ahead with other plans. You can always change your plans.</li> <li>• Keep your grades up.</li> <li>• If you have ruled out any colleges that accepted you, notify them. This is a courtesy.</li> <li>• Go to accepted student open houses if offered.</li> <li>• A couple circumstances may warrant an appeal of a college rejection</li> </ul>
May—June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Avoid senioritis! An acceptance letter doesn't mean you can stop working.</li> <li>• Most schools have a deposit deadline of May 1st. Don't be late! If needed, you may be able to request an extension.</li> <li>• Prepare for and take any appropriate AP exams. Most colleges offer course credit for high AP scores.</li> <li>• Have your final transcripts sent to colleges.</li> <li>• Send thank you letters to everyone who helped you in the application process. Let your mentors and recommenders know the results of your college search.</li> <li>• Graduate. Congratulations!</li> </ul>
June-August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Register for your classes as soon as possible. Classes often fill, and registration is usually on a first-come, first-served basis.</li> <li>• If you get your housing assignment, take advantage of the summer to get to know your roommate (email, Facebook, the phone, etc). Figure out who will bring what. You don't need two TVs and two microwaves in your tiny room.</li> <li>• Off to college! <a href="http://CollegeLife.com/about">CollegeLife.com.about</a></li> </ul>