

TIMELINE FOR COLLEGE PLANNING

SENIOR YEAR

September

- Begin acquiring college applications either by writing, calling or emailing the colleges' Office of Admissions directly or by coming to the Guidance Office to see if an application is available. (This applies to community college as well.) **APPLY EARLY.**
- If you have not already done so, make an appointment with your counselor to discuss your college plans.
- If you are planning to take or retake the ACT or the SAT I & II, register for tests.
- Visit with college representatives visiting your school; conference times are available at the Guidance Office.
- Attend Open Houses at colleges and evening programs in the area.
- If you wish to participate in athletics at a Division I or II college, plan to attend the "NCAA and the College Athlete" morning seminar.
- Draft your essay(s) for applications which require them.
- Narrow down college choices to the four or six to which you will apply. You should have at least one "safety" school where you will most likely be admitted.

October

- Continue to visit college representatives and college campuses.
- If you are applying to a school for "early decision" or "early action," plan to have the application to your counselor at least **one week** before the deadline.
- If you are applying to an Illinois state university, do so this month.
- Deadline for your counselor to receive your University of Illinois and Illinois State University applications is **October 15th.**
- Make sure you are meeting your priority deadline.
- Take the SAT I and/or ACT if you need to do so.
- Arrange to have your official scores (ACT, SAT I, SAT II) sent to the schools where you are submitting applications. Forms are available in the Guidance Office.
- Ask your counselor for a letter of recommendation if you need one.
- Ask your teacher(s) for a letter of recommendation if you need to do so.

November

- Hand in all completed applications to your counselor by **November 15th**.
- If you need to take the SAT II tests and have not yet registered, register for the January test date. This is the final test date for seniors.

December

- Last call for four-year college applications!
- Read college catalogs for information on housing accommodations.

January

- If you are applying for financial aid, attend the Financial Aid Seminar and pick up the proper financial aid form in the Guidance Office.
- If you want to reserve a dorm room at a large university, fill out and return the housing application when you receive it. (Most deposits are partially refundable until June 1.)

February

- If necessary, make a second visit to the colleges in which you are still interested. Narrow down your options, if necessary.
- File all federal financial aid forms.

March

- Make sure your application to the community college is completed.
- Wait to hear from the colleges where you have applied!

April

- Decide by **April 30th** which college you will attend. **You must inform each college which accepted you of your final plans.** This must be done by May 1st.

May

- Arrange to have your final transcript sent to the college you will be attending.