

College Planning Timetable for Students and Parents

JUNIORS

Update Student Resume

October. PSAT test (optional). Qualifying test for National Merit Scholarship.

January-March. College planning quarter.

December or February. Recommended date for first ACT test (optional).

March. SAT test (State required). Students register at their high school. Fees are paid by the State.

April, May or June. Recommended date for second SAT and ACT test (if needed)

March-September. College visits. Parents and students are urged to visit.

SENIORS

Students:

Update Student Resume

By Mid-October. Apply to your top choice colleges. By holidays- apply to the rest. Coordinate all application steps with your counselor.

Common Application – used by private colleges mainly. See www.commonapp.org

“Regular” Application - Specific to each college not using the common application

Fall-Spring. Search for college scholarships (merit and private donor).

Fall-Spring. Admission Offers and Enrollment Deposits. Upon receiving your letters of admission, you should promptly accept each college’s offer, especially if non-binding for you, and pay whatever deposits are requested. Deposits will reserve a better spot in orientation and in housing. Deposits are usually refundable if you decide not to attend the college.

By May 1. Decide which college you will attend.

Parents:

October-December. CSS Profile - Similar but more detailed than FAFSA. Used primarily by private colleges to help determine institutional aid. <https://profileonline.collegeboard.com>.

CSS Profile information, guide worksheet and application. Helpline: 1/305-829-9793.

Before October. Apply for FAFSA FSA-ID for parent and student. Required.

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>

October 1-March 1. FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). www.fafsa.ed.gov

Helpline: 1/800-433-3243. Or, www.nitrocollege.com/fafsa-guide.

October 1- No deadline. “Special Consideration” letter. Optional. A letter sent to each college’s financial aid office immediately after you file the FAFSA -- if you feel you have special circumstances not covered by the FAFSA. Your reasons should be brief and well-documented.

October-April. Award letters. Each college will send you an award letter detailing its annual attendance costs, your expected contribution and the college’s contribution. The college’s contribution may include need-based scholarship(s), grants, loans and work-study funds.

October-April. “Appeal” letter. Optional. A letter you can send to the college(s) financial aid office, indicating your wish to have the college upgrade your award letter. Your reasons should be brief and well-documented.

May 1. The universal date by which your student must decide which college to attend.

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