

HIGH SCHOOL PLANNING

SENIORS

Summer:

- Visit colleges with your parents, formally. If you haven't already, make plans to check out the campuses of colleges in which you are interested. Use a Campus Visit Checklist to learn how to get the most of these experiences.
- With your parents and/or School Counselor, finalize a college list. Choose which colleges to apply to by weighing how well each college meets your needs.
- Find out a college's **actual** cost. Once you have a list of a few colleges you are interested in, use the College Board's Net Price Calculator with your parents to find out the potential for financial aid and the true out-of-pocket price – of each college.
- Start filling out applications. Get the easy stuff out of the way now by filling in as much required information on college applications as possible. Ask your School Counselor for help if needed.
- With your parents, decide if you want or need to apply early. If you are set on going to a certain college, you should think about whether applying early is a good option. Now is the time to decide because early applications are usually due in November.
- Gather financial documents. To apply for financial aid, you will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You will need your parent/guardian's most recent tax returns and a FSA ID to complete the FAFSA, which opens Oct 1st.

Fall:

- Meet with your School Counselor. This year you will work with the School Counselor to complete and submit college applications.
- Create a calendar. This should include application deadlines and other important dates. You can find specific college' deadlines in College Search. If you saved colleges to a list there, you can create a custom online calendar that shows those colleges' deadlines.
- Prepare for college admissions tests. Many seniors retake college admissions tests, such as the SAT, in the fall.
- Find and apply for scholarships. Ask your School Counselor about scholarship opportunities. You will need to request and complete scholarship applications and submit them on time.
- Fill out the FAFSA to apply for aid beginning Oct 1st. The government and many colleges use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to award aid. It's easier now than ever to fill out this form because you can automatically transfer your parents tax information online from the IRS to the FAFSA. NMC staff will be on-campus to help you fill this out.

- Set up college interviews. An interview is a great way to learn more about a college and for a college to learn more about you.
- Continue to participate in extracurricular activities. Update your list of activities and volunteer work you have participated in.

Winter:

- Work with your parents to apply for financial aid. Contact the financial aid offices at the colleges in which you are interested to find out what forms students must submit to apply for aid. Make sure you apply for aid by or before any stated deadlines. Funds are limited, so the earlier you apply, the better.
- Learn about college loan options with your parents. Borrowing money for college can be a smart choice – especially if you get a low-interest federal loan.
- Take SAT Subject Tests. These tests can showcase your interests and achievements – and many colleges require or recommend that applicants take one or more Subject Test.
- Take AP exams if you are currently taking an AP class. Talk with your teacher or School Counselor about taking these tests in May.

Spring:

- Process college responses with your parents and/or School Counselor. Once you start hearing back from colleges about admission and financial aid, you will need the support of your parents to decide what to do.
- Review financial aid offers. You will need your parents help to read through financial aid award letters and figure out which package works best. Be sure you pay attention to and meet any deadlines for acceptance.
- If your planning on playing college-level athletics, request your final amateurism certificate after April 1st.
- Complete the paperwork to accept a college's offer of admittance. Once you have decided on which college to attend, you will need to review the offer, accept a college's offer, mail a tuition deposit and submit other required paperwork.
- After you graduate, ask your School Counselor to upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center.