

DEADLINES: BEYOND HIGH SCHOOL CHECKLIST FRESHMAN TO SENIOR

TIMELINES FOR HIGH SCHOOL

FALL-SPRING: (Freshman year)

- ☐ Work on getting good grades -this lays the foundation for years ahead.
- ☐ Learn how create good study habits and time management.
- ☐ Consider a planner or assignment notebook to keep your school work and activities all in one place.
- ☐ Start looking at <https://www.fastweb.com/>

FALL-SPRING: (Sophomore year)

- ☐ Capitalize on the habits from Freshman year -continue to use good habits and the assignment notebook.
- ☐ Use this opportunity to keep grades up. Junior year feels harder if you aren't on a solid foundation.
- ☐ Start considering which classes really interest you. This may be a ticket to deciding what you might want to do in the future.
- ☐ Start looking at <https://www.fastweb.com/> for scholarships for sophomores.
- ☐ Consider classes for next year, do you feel confident that you could take a more rigorous course. Challenge yourself.
- ☐ You may start getting college mailers. Use these to start the process to start frequenting websites of schools or programs you are interested in.
- ☐ Consider working on your Naviance profile.

SUMMER: (Junior to Senior year 2021)

- ☐ Consider **senior schedule**: have you taken any AP/challenging courses? What kinds of things will you have to take your freshman college year? Will any classes here help you?
- ☐ Consider how much is too much? Stacking your resume **now** can lead to burnout and anxiety. Think about what you're taking on before you add that last thing your resume.
- ☐ Colleges/universities appreciate your ability to not "skate" by your senior year. This is not the year to "take it easy;" especially if grades are just ok in past years. Students think it's better to have an easy senior year with A's, but the reality is college/real world is MUCH harder than high school and a few AP courses -even if your grade is lower - prepares you for real courses. Most high school classes are not college-bound -they just want you to graduate.
- ☐ **School Visits**- this is a good time to visit. Too many students try to go in the Fall and miss a lot of school putting them behind in work and making them feel overwhelmed.

- ❑ **Letters of Rec** - Email teachers (don't expect a response right away) to write letters of recommendation. It is important to provide recommenders (teachers, employers, pastors, volunteer, etc.) **at least a month** to complete recs. IF you ask in the fall, you'll be waiting. With the circumstances, letters might weigh more heavily in your admissions process.
- ❑ **College applications** -read through materials. Note deadlines on your calendar.
- ❑ GET AHEAD: **Build a resume**
- ❑ GET AHEAD: By starting to work on **college essay prompts**. (Some schools have started to eliminate the essay, but don't bank on this; most schools at least have a small question you're required to answer)
- ❑ **SENIOR ADVICE**: Scholarships -find them early!

FALL (AUGUST -OCTOBER 2021)

- ❑ **Finish college essays** -have them **edited** by someone besides yourself
 - ❑ NOTE: If you are giving essays to teachers remember this is a favor you're asking and is NOT part of their job description, you should be kind and respect their time by giving them time to read your work
- ❑ Use the college essay packet/sheet I gave you
- ❑ Letters or Rec-Couple of things...
 - ❑ Allow your recommenders a month to complete the task. People are more willing to do things for you when they aren't rushed.
 - ❑ For faculty (Teachers, coaches) send emails out first week after summer started. Faculty will still check emails over summer, but responses lag
 - ❑ Remember no teacher is required to offer a letter just because you were in their class. When choosing a teacher consider:
 - ❑ Does that person know me well? Do we have a good relationship? Have I given them reasons to write me a good "meaty" letter? Would there be anything that would cause this person not to write me a good letter?
 - ❑ Letters are written on teachers' own time. Therefore, think of it this way --they should WANT to write you a letter.
- ❑ Snag these from your teachers those first months -please remember that any teacher can **RESCIND** a letter if you are not worthy of living up to it (we shall discuss)
- ❑ **Meet with recruiters** (if you didn't you're junior year)
- ❑ Narrow down your search to 3-5 schools
- ❑ Visit or revisit ONLY those schools -choose the one that feels like home
- ❑ **TAKE** and **Retake the SAT**: <https://www.collegeboard.org/>
 - ❑ Consider SAT subject tests (Restrictive and Early action folks)
- ❑ Make an appt with counselors about **PARCHMENT** -this is how your transcripts are sent to colleges. REMEMBER: ALL grades matter, seniors are sometimes under the impression that once they are accepted it's a done deal, but I have seen students' admissions and or monies/scholarships revoked for poor grades, attendance, etc.

- ❑ GET AHEAD: Consider **restrictive** or **early admissions**: Wanna go Ivy? Restrictive admissions close as early as **October 15**. Early admissions for most schools run from **October 31-December 1**. If you want to go to a certain school EA is for you.
- ❑ GET AHEAD: **HONORS Programs**, if you want to get into an Honors Program at your school EA is for you.

WINTER: (DECEMBER-FEBRUARY 2021/2022)

- ❑ **December 1**: Most early admissions close. It gets a little crazy during this time, so if you're desperately seeking individuals to write you letters, or complete PARCHMENT, be patient; you may have to consider that you've waited too long to get accepted to EA.
- ❑ After December 1, **REGULAR ENROLLMENT begins (Dec 1- Jan 31)**. Regular enrollment allows for students to come in after EA members have been chosen. Your chances decrease to get into your dream school the longer you wait.
- ❑ **ROLLING ADMISSION**: Some schools have rolling admissions -this means they accept people pretty much whenever. There may be cutoff dates for the year, but that's it.
- ❑ Going to COD: Here's everything you need
 - ❑ http://www.cod.edu/admission/intl_student_admissions/admissions_requirements.aspx
- ❑ From **JANUARY 2-MARCH 1**, students tend to hear back from prospective schools. The timeline is different for EVERY school.
- ❑ GET AHEAD: By January, start looking into FAFSA. Usually, parent tax returns are needed to fill the forms out, so be prepared to wait until parentals have done taxes.
- ❑ GET AHEAD: Attend Parent University night on FAFSA in February here at school. It's good for you to know the info too.

SPRING: (LATE FEBRUARY-APRIL 2022)

- ❑ **Get your scholarship on**: Did you know you can already get scholarships as juniors? Google "Scholarships" and you'll find thousands of things.
- ❑ Scholarships often also require applications, essays, and sometimes letters. Talk to recommenders early. (See websites below for other college scholarships)
- ❑ <http://www.collegescholarships.org/financial-aid/>
- ❑ <https://www.fastweb.com/>
- ❑ Heard back from schools? Choose your favorite THEN **write a thank you but no thank you letter**. It's a kind way of letting them know they have spots to fill. ALWAYS DO THIS through a handwritten note.
- ❑ **Send your recommenders a note**: they're done with your stuff, but did you thank them? They'll look more kindly on you if you have any last minute things to edit :)
- ❑ BY MARCH-MAY : **Get accepted!**
- ❑ BY APRIL: **Continue to scout for scholarships**
- ❑ **MAY 1: Pledge your Collegiance** -this is usually the last day to accept your school.

SUMMER: (MAY-JULY 2022)

- ☐ **Graduate!**
- ☐ **FRESHMAN ORIENTATION:** often starts first week in June -make sure you sign up and go visit and get acclimated. You tend to also sign up for **housing** during this time.
- ☐ You'll often visit with a **college counselor** and be bombarded with tons of info (keep all paperwork). Often you take placement tests during this time.
- ☐ **JUNE 30** -last day to get state aid (FAFSA). This changes year to year, but generally it's the last day of June
- ☐ Get summer job -you'll need the \$
- ☐ Housing deadlines -figure these out

FALL: (AUGUST 2022) YOU MADE IT!

- ☐ **Join activities**
- ☐ **Bring:** shower shoes, shower caddy, clothes, a few personal belongings (there's no room in dorms)
- ☐ Talk to the new roommate
- ☐ Don't wander in packs as a freshman -it's so obvious you are a freshman
- ☐ Wander around to become acclimated with campus buildings and where your classes are
- ☐ Consider a work study program -helps you get to know professors and is a great job to have inside perks at the college

THE GAP YEAR OR I AM GOING TO WORK

It's very normal for students to start taking what's considered GAP years in between high school in college. Here are some helpful hints to make that transition.

SUMMER: (MAY-JULY 2022)

- ☐ **Graduate!**
- ☐ Use this time to work or look into opportunities to fill the GAP year
 - ☐ Travel and volunteer
 - ☐ Just travel
 - ☐ Working to save for school

IF YOU'RE STARTING TO WORK:

- ☐ No matter the job, consider that you will always need a **resume**; this is the calling card for an individual that ever wants to get anything in the real world
- ☐ Learn how to **network**: Any person can help you get a job someday
 - ☐ Parents/Family
 - ☐ Teachers
 - ☐ Coaches

- ❑ Church leaders
- ❑ Consider **specific certifications** you might want to work towards to make yourself more marketable and invaluable to a company
- ❑ Specific certifications sometimes require more schooling; whereas other content just requires training to be more elite in your field; consider what is cost effective
- ❑ Look into the job market ahead of time so that you can plan. There has been a significant uptick on work that does not require college and these folks are getting paid extremely well without student loans sidelining them

WHAT IF I WANT TO TRANSFER SCHOOLS

So...I'm going to COD but that's not my plan forever. What do I do when I want to transfer schools?

- ❑ Find out more about the school you PLAN on going to
- ❑ Determine new costs and housing situations
- ❑ Determine **which credits will transfer** from the school you're at to the one you'll be going to (this will save you money and time)
- ❑ Apply early (usually after 1.5 years -not two) to make sure they have accepted you that way you are not without schooling for a time

REAL WORLD RULES TO REMEMBER

Just a few reminders for the real world...They may sound harsh, but this is reality

- ❑ The real world owes you ABSOLUTELY NOTHING. Period. You are not entitled to deserve anything right away no matter how much social media thinks it so. There's no filter on the real world.
- ❑ There's a big belief that you will immediately find a job right out of schooling -this is a professional myth. The average wait time to find a job is almost 9 months. To find the job **you want** could take YEARS to achieve.
- ❑ Going to a good school is great -it's also expensive- and will mean very little to you perhaps after going into the field. Weigh the costs.
- ❑ As a senior, you represent all that is great at WEGO -what do you want your legacy to be? Remember someone is always looking up to you.
- ❑ Respect the people who got you here -this is your last year: the way you treat family, friends, teachers, etc. will be there forever -make your impression great.