**AUGUST-SEPTEMBER**

* + Register for the SAT and/or ACT if you haven’t taken one yet as a junior OR want to take one again. Remember: Your counselor can help with fee waivers. Your college may not require these scores for admission BUT your program may!
	+ Narrow down your list of colleges to apply to
	+ Request personal recommendations from teachers, school counselors, or employers.
	+ Start your college applications! Make note of all the pieces of information you will need to compile and get yourself organized with everything you need. (letters, essays, etc)
	+ Check with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements.
	+ Take every opportunity to get to know colleges. Meet with college representatives who visit your school, attend local college fairs, and visit campuses. Demonstrated interest could help you get into where you want to go.
	+ Create a checklist and calendar to keep track of standardized test dates, college application due dates, and financial aid deadlines.

**OCTOBER**

* + File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon after Oct. 1 as possible. In addition to determining your eligibility for federal funds, many colleges and states use the form when distributing grants, so don't forget this important step. Watch the mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR); it should arrive approx. four weeks after the FAFSA is filed.
	+ Some colleges will have deadlines (rolling, priority, early decision, and early action) as early as this month. MAKE SURE YOU ARE KEEPING TRACK!
	+ If you cannot afford the application fees that many colleges charge, ask your counselor if you qualify for a fee waiver; sometimes colleges will give them to you when you visit or attend their open house.
	+ Finalize your college essay. Many schools will require that you submit **at least one** essay with your application.
	+ Start submitting your applications early even if the deadline isn’t until later – you will feel better getting this done!

**NOVEMBER-DECEMBER**

* + Finalize and send any early decision or early action applications due this month. Have a parent, teacher, counselor, or other adult review the application before it is submitted.
	+ Every college will require a copy of your transcript from your high school. Follow the Naviance instructions on how to do this.
	+ Make sure testing companies (College Board or ACT) have sent your scores directly to the colleges to which you are applying.
	+ Begin to organize regular decision applications and financial aid forms if you haven’t submitted them yet, which will be due in January and/or February.
	+ If needed, register for the January SAT. It is the last one that colleges will be able to consider for a senior.
	+ Research scholarships. Ask your counselor, your colleges, and local religious and civic groups about scholarship opportunities. You should *never* pay for scholarship information.
	+ If necessary, register for the February ACT (some colleges will be able to consider it).
	+ At the end of the 2nd quarter, request your midyear transcripts (in Naviance) be sent to schools where you applied. At the end of the school year, we will need to send final transcripts to the college you will attend.

**FEBRUARY-MAY**

* + Acceptance letters and financial aid offers will start to arrive if they haven’t already. Review your acceptances, compare financial aid packages, and visit your final choices.
	+ Don't slack in the classroom. The college you decide to attend will want to see your second semester transcript.
	+ **May 1** is the date when the college you plan to attend requires a commitment and deposit. When you've made your college decision, notify your counselor. Send your deposit postmarked by May 1. If you've been offered financial aid, accept the offer and follow the instructions given.
	+ Request that your final transcript be sent to the college you will be attending in Naviance and make sure you complete the senior survey in a timely and accurate manner!
	+ If you are wait-listed by a college you really want to attend, visit, call, and write to the admission office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your application.

**JUNE**

* Graduate and BE YOUR AWESOME SELF wherever you choose to go!