**Senior Year Information Guide**

**Fall (August-November)**

* Decide post-high school direction
	+ College, Trade, Military, Work Force
* Research options via online websites or personal visits
	+ Choose 4-6 colleges/universities to apply to
	+ Review application process on website
	+ Learn application options (e.g., Common Application or college website)
* Register for early SAT Reasoning and/or SAT Subject tests or ACT to increase your scores
	+ Remember: You receive 4 **free** score reports at the time of registration (or up to 9 days after the test date). Afterwards, you must pay for **each** score report sent to a college.
* Meet with your counselor to discuss the college process
* Attend local and national college fairs and open houses at your desired colleges
* Register for [college representative visits](http://www.wilsonsd.org/Page/1090) in the Counseling Office
* From your list of colleges, find the following information for each school:
	+ Application deadline and application options
	+ FInancial Aid deadlines
	+ Institutional scholarship deadlines
	+ If needed, other supporting documents (e.g., secondary school report, teacher recommendations, writing supplements, test score submission requirements, etc.)
* Start writing your college essays - Ask your English teacher or another qualified individual to review your essay before submission.
* Prepare your resume - All seniors are required to submit their resume to their school counselor for scholarship consideration and letters of recommendation
* Ask your teachers and counselor for letters of recommendations (LOR’s)
	+ \*Not all schools require LORs – please check the colleges’ admission requirements before asking!
* Begin applying to colleges – check their websites for application instructions
	+ \*Take note of early deadlines for applications and financial aid (CSS Profile)! Most Early Action/Early Decision application deadlines are in November. Priority scholarship and certain programs/majors deadlines may be as early as December 1st (even for rolling admission schools!)
	+ Request for transcripts to be sent to your colleges through your counselor
* Send official score reports from your College Board or ACT Student accounts to your colleges and/or NCAA
* Apply for [outside scholarships](http://www.wilsonsd.org/Page/8353) and college-specific scholarships

**Transcript Request Process**

* Add schools to Naviance under the “Colleges I’m Applying To” tab
* Request teacher recommendations in Naviance only if required
* Complete online application and submit on the college website or via the Common App.
* Request transcripts in Naviance via the google form (for each college applied to).

**Winter (December-February)**

* Attend Financial Aid Night to learn about paying for college (November)
* Complete the FAFSA to apply for federal aid and loans and other supplemental financial aid applications
	+ \*You may now begin to apply as early as October 1st with an earlier tax year’s information, referred to as prior-prior year (PPY)
* Continue applying to colleges and check that each prospective school has received all of your materials
* Continue applying for [outside scholarships](http://www.wilsonsd.org/Page/8353) and college-specific scholarships
* Prepare for college interviews

**Spring (March-June)**

* Review all of your responses and financial aid packages from colleges
* Take the [ASVAB](http://www.wilsonsd.org/Page/10439) (free) to help with career planning
* Take the [AP exams](http://www.wilsonsd.org/Page/10413) if you are enrolled in an AP course (May)
* Send Intent to Register to desired college and then withdrawal notification to colleges you are not attending
* Send deposit to matriculating college
* Sign and send in a promissory note if you are borrowing money
* Notify your college about any outside scholarships that you have received
* Request for final transcript to be sent to your matriculating college
* All male U.S. citizens and male immigrants, who are 18 through 25, are required to register with [Selective Service](https://www.sss.gov/)

**Summer (June-August)**

* Prepare for matriculation into your selected college by attending summer orientation programs, applying for student housing, and registering for courses
* Learn about useful resources at your college and the surrounding community, such as the campus police, tutoring centers, mental health centers, clubs, and cultural centers.