

## Senior Year Timeline/To Do List

### June/July

- Visit schools that you are interested in and some you may not think you are interested in
- Check to be sure any dual credit classes you are signed up for in the fall will transfer to the different colleges you are thinking about.
- Begin studying for the SAT/ACT: SAT - [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) , ACT – [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

### August

- Contact the colleges you have in mind for admissions requirements, applications, fees and financial aid information.
- Start your senior year off with a BANG!
- Create your [www.applytexans.org](http://www.applytexans.org) username and password and store in a safe place.

### September

- Meet with your guidance counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate. Check your transcript. Be sure you have the credits or are on the plan that is recommended for the colleges of your choice.
- Register for the October/November SAT, ACT and SAT Subject Tests required by the colleges you are considering. Watch out for the deadlines to avoid late fees!!
- Check the counselor's office for scholarships that are already out and research financial aid options.
- Submit early decision applications for UT-Austin.
- Ask your teachers/mentors to begin writing recommendation letters. Provide them with your updated resume and check to see if your school has a "letter of rec" form to fill out for the teacher.

### October

- Finalize list of college choices to a reasonable number. Remember that the applications usually cost money! These selections should include realistic choices along with a "safety" school where you are certain to gain admission and maybe a "dream" school where you know being accepted will be a reach.
- Begin brainstorming ideas for personal statements and admission essays.
- Create a file for each of your college choices to keep up with all of the information.
- Consider creating a master schedule with all of your application deadlines and due dates.
- Complete financial aid forms – Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Use the worksheet as a guide. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) . You will need information from your parent/guardian's tax returns.
- Submit FAFSA online. The sooner the better chance you have of receiving grants! (The State of Texas Priority Deadline is January 15, 2020)

### November

- Finalize drafts of your college essays after having others help with editing
- Complete applications
- Request financial aid from colleges
- Stay focused on grades
- Have test scores (SAT) sent to your selected college choices
- Research housing requirements and find out when deposits need to be made

## December

- If you applied for early acceptance, then you may receive notification this month
- Start a detailed search of scholarships and loan information
- Re-take the SAT/ACT to try for a higher score
- Begin planning trips to visit your schools so that you can get a feel for the college

## January

- Check the counselor's office for new scholarships that are available. Get in the habit of doing this weekly during the spring semester.
- Know your preferred colleges' FAFSA uploaded deadlines.

## February

- Keep track of your applications and be sure your school has received all of your materials
- Complete FAFSA, if you have not done so already.
- Stay focused on grades

## March

- College decision letters begin arriving
- Celebrate acceptances, decide on your wait lists and deal positively with any rejections
- Continue searching for scholarships and grants
- Be aware of deadlines for accepting admission invitations.
- Continue researching career interests and choosing a possible major

## April

- Make a decision about your acceptances and decide on a college
- Complete and do well on any remaining STAAR tests you have left  
Notify all colleges (of those that accepted you) of your final decision
- Stay focused on grades
- Share your college choice decision with your counselor

## May

- Submit paperwork for room and board if you have not done so already
- Continue filling out scholarship applications
- Study hard for finals and keep the grades high! Colleges can revoke admission letters.
- Celebrate your high school success!
- Start planning for college
- Watch for summer deadlines at your college orientations, registration, etc.
- Send thank you notes to anyone who helped you this year
- Relax before your first college fall semester begins!

## Helpful Resources

### ACT

- [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

### Advanced Placement

- [www.apcommunity.collegeboard.org](http://www.apcommunity.collegeboard.org)
- [www.apstudent.collegeboard.org](http://www.apstudent.collegeboard.org)
- [www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy](http://www.collegeboard.org/apcreditpolicy)

### College Applications

- Apply Texas [www.applytexas.org](http://www.applytexas.org)
- Common Application [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org)
- Lone Star College System [www.lonestar.edu](http://www.lonestar.edu)
- Send Edu [www.send.edu](http://www.send.edu)

### Cypress Fairbanks ISD Websites

- Cypress Creek High School <http://cycreek.cfid.net/en/>
- Cypress Fairbanks ISD [www.cfid.net](http://www.cfid.net)

### Financial Aid

- Federal Student Aid [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)
- FAFSA4caster [www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov)
- College Comparison Tools [www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/](http://www.nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/) and [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/compare-colleges](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/compare-colleges)
- Financial Aid Shopping Sheet (US Department of Education) [www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/guid/aid-offer/annotatedshoppingsheet.pdf](http://www2.ed.gov/policy/highered/guid/aid-offer/annotatedshoppingsheet.pdf)
- Award Letter Comparison Tool [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-pay-college/financial-aid-awards/compare-aid-calculator](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-pay-college/financial-aid-awards/compare-aid-calculator)

### Resume Building and Post-Secondary Planning

- Career Cruising [www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com)

### SAT

- [www.sat.org/resources](http://www.sat.org/resources)
- [www.khanacademy.org/sat](http://www.khanacademy.org/sat)
- Award Letter Comparison Tool [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-awards/compare-aid-calculator](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid-awards/compare-aid-calculator)

### Scholarships/Grants

- Fastweb [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)
- Scholarship Expert [www.scholarshipexperts.com](http://www.scholarshipexperts.com)