

College Application Cheat Sheet

SEPTEMBER

- ❖ Narrow your college choices. Your selection should include at least 1 college that you feel will definitely accept you and that you would be happy attending.
 - Four or more rule: 1 Reach Schools, 2-3 Good Match schools & 2-3 Safety Schools
 - Big Future on College Board: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
- ❖ Set up an account online to apply to your colleges of choice. The Common App is used for private and many state schools – www.commonapp.org. Check the college application websites to see if they prefer you to use their local online application.
- ❖ Create a master calendar or list that includes:
 - Tests you will take, fees, and registration deadlines
 - College application deadlines
 - Financial aid and scholarship deadlines
 - Other materials you will need – letters of recommendations, transcripts, etc.
- ❖ Register for SAT and ACT if necessary.
- ❖ Request a FSA ID which is needed to complete the FAFSA.
- ❖ Complete an updated Senior Profile sheet if requesting recommendation letters from your counselor. (Will be made available to seniors during individual student meetings through a scheduled class on campus.)

OCTOBER

- ❖ Complete college application essays and ask a teacher or counselor to review your essays. (At least a month prior to submission as teachers may be reviewing multiple essays for students.)
- ❖ Give recommendation forms to teachers and counselors writing recommendations for you (include resume). Teachers & Counselors need about 2 weeks to write a good recommendation because multiple students are asking for letters at the same time.
- ❖ Decide on Early Decision or Early Action if applicable.
- ❖ Request transcripts be sent to colleges. Be sure to include the address of the college admissions office. <https://www.slchs.org/transcripts/>
- ❖ Begin gathering family income information for tax preparation (using 2017 taxes) and completion of financial aid forms.
- ❖ **Complete and submit applications. Set a goal for Halloween.**

NOVEMBER

- ❖ November 1 - Deadline for most early decision applicants.
- ❖ Keep studying! Most colleges will ask for a mid-term transcript in January.
- ❖ Send additional ACT/SAT score reports for colleges if needed.
- ❖ File FAFSA forms with your parents as soon as a required data has been collected.

DECEMBER

- ❖ Make December 1 your final DEADLINE goal for completion of all college applications.

JANUARY

- ❖ Complete mid-term reports and request mid-term transcripts if necessary.
- ❖ Check the College/Scholarship file on the counseling center website for available scholarships.

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FEBRUARY

- ❖ No Senioritis, please! Colleges DO look at your spring semester grades. Most college acceptances state, "accepted pending the successful completion of your 12th grade coursework."
- ❖ Continue filling out scholarship forms.
- ❖ Check deadlines for financial aid, scholarships and grants. Many applications are due by March 1st.

MARCH

- ❖ Keep searching for scholarships and other financial aid.

APRIL

- ❖ You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid award letters by mid-April.
- ❖ Carefully choose your college and write a letter of acceptance which needs to be received prior to May 1st.
- ❖ Write other colleges to decline their acceptance by May 1st.
- ❖ Finalize plans for housing, financial aid and/or scholarships.
- ❖ Make necessary deposits for the fall term.

MAY

- ❖ Notify your high school counselor of your final college choice and if you have been awarded any scholarships (academic, athletic, artistic, dramatic or musical – NOT LOANS).