



College Planning Timeline

Grade 12

In the Fall:

- Register for required tests, it's your last chance to take the **ACT or SAT tests!** Also, be sure you have requested (either by mail or online) that your test scores be sent to the colleges of your choice.
- Guidance will meet with each senior individually.
- Continue to visit schools. Fall is a great time to look at the schools on your college list, because classes are in session and you are better able to meet and talk with students and professors. You may even be able to sit in on a class or two.
- Finalize your college list. Use the information you've gathered from **college visits**, interviews, and your own research to decide which schools you want to apply to. It's okay to apply to colleges that you think will be more difficult to get into, but it's also important to put a few "safety" schools (where you're sure you'll get in) on your list.
- Stay on track with your grades and extracurricular activities. Colleges will look at what you've done during your senior year, so stay focused on doing well in your classes and maintaining a commitment to **extracurricular activities**. This will not only affect college admissions (especially if applying to a school with "fixed admissions"), but will also increase your chances at receiving scholarships.
- To male students: You must register for selective service on your eighteenth birthday to be eligible for federal and state financial aid.
- Ask for letters of recommendation. Give **letter of recommendation** forms to the teachers you have chosen, along with stamped, addressed envelopes so your teachers can send them directly to the colleges. Be sure to fill out your name and address and the school name on each form. Discuss your goals and ambitions with your teachers so they'll be more prepared to write about you.
- Make a calendar showing application deadlines for admission, financial aid, and scholarships. Print extra copies or make photocopies of every application you send, file them in individual college folders to keep organized.
* **Mail or send electronically any college applications for early-decision admission by November.***

In the Winter:

- Send midyear grade reports to colleges if required or needed due to wait-listing.
- If you signed the Wisconsin Covenant Pledge in 8th grade, you must sign and complete the process to receive your benefits at the following web address: <https://www.nextstopcollegewi.org/mglstatic/caa/forms/wi-covenant-flyer.pdf>
- After applying for schools, it is time to focus on scholarships and financial aid. The big push for scholarships is in December-March. Financial Aid forms can not be filled out until January 1st, so there is a little bit of time for that. There will also be a Financial Aid Information night in early January.
- Mail or send electronically any remaining applications before winter break.
- Follow up to make sure that the colleges have received all application information, including recommendations and test scores.

In the Spring:

- Watch your mail between March 1 and April 1 for acceptance notifications from colleges.
- Watch your mail for notification of financial aid awards between April 1 and May 10.
- Compare the financial aid packages from the colleges and universities that have accepted you.
- Make your final choice, and notify all schools of your intent by early May. If possible, do not decide without making at least one campus visit. Send your nonrefundable deposit to your chosen school as well. Request that the high school send a final transcript to your final college choice in June.
- Be sure that you have received a FAFSA acknowledgment.
- If you applied for a Pell Grant (on the FAFSA), you will receive the Student Aid Report (SAR) statement. Review this Pell notice, and forward it to the college you plan to attend. Make a copy for your record.
- Complete follow-up paperwork for the college of your choice (scheduling, orientation session, housing arrangements, and other necessary forms).