



College Planning Guide – Senior Year

You made it! Apply to colleges. Make decisions.

Finish high school with pride in yourself and your accomplishments.

September

- Move your colleges into the APPLIED column on SCOIR if you *definitely* applied to the colleges.
- Check application and financial aid deadlines for the schools to which you plan to apply.
- Meet with your counselor to be sure your list includes colleges appropriate to your academic and personal record. Review your transcript and co-curricular records.
- Register for upcoming ACT or SAT exams.
- Try to limit your applications to 6- 8 colleges. You should include two “reach” schools, 2 – 4 “competitive” schools, and one or two “safety” schools. Do NOT consider applying to schools simply because you want to know if you will be accepted or because of the ease of applying. *Only apply to schools that you have the intention of attending if accepted.*
- Be sure to register at <http://www.commonapp.org> (if your colleges are commonapp colleges - check www.commonapp.org). Over 900 colleges currently use the commonapp. If your colleges use the commonapp, please fill out all the details and for each college and submit the application fees.
- At least three weeks before the due date, request on SCOIR a letter of recommendation from your counselor and teacher(s). Update SCOIR when you submit your application and when you received any results.
- Check your e-mail and Canvas regularly for the latest scholarships and college news.

October

- Visit <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch> FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and get a FSA-ID for you and another one for your parents before October so that you will be ready to begin the FAFSA soon after October 1. The FAFSA application opens October 1.

- Check to see if the colleges to which you are applying require any other financial aid form, such as the CSS Profile (also available October 1).
(<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>)
- If necessary to improve your scores, register again for the ACT or SAT

November

- Be sure your first quarter grades are good.
- Continue completing applications to colleges.
- Visit the scholarship links on Canvas. Also, visit the financial aid links on the websites of the colleges.

December

- Contact ACT or SAT to send official test scores to colleges on your list if you have not done so.
- If you applied for early decision or early action, you may have an answer by now. If you are accepted, follow the instructions for admitted students. Write to other colleges and send them a letter notifying them of your withdrawal. If the decision is deferred until spring or you are denied, submit applications now to other colleges before winter break.
- Update your SCOIR account with the results (accepted, waitlisted, denied, or attending).

January

- Keep working in your classes! Grades and courses continue to count throughout the senior year. First semester grades have already been mailed to all the colleges to which you have applied.
- Many colleges open registration for housing in January. Please make the appropriate deposit for housing. That information is found on the college's website.

February

- Remember to monitor your applications. If you have not received a confirmation from the colleges, call or e-mail them. Stay on top of things and don't procrastinate; you can ruin your chances for admission by missing a deadline.
- Complete scholarship applications. You may be eligible for more scholarships than you think, so apply for as many as you can. Enjoy your final year in high school, but don't catch senioritis!

March /April

- Stay focused and continue studying---only a couple more months to go!
- Continue to be active in extra-curricular activities.

- If you are positive you will not enroll at any of the colleges which have accepted you, please notify those colleges that you have selected another college. Keeping colleges abreast of your plans may enable those colleges to admit someone else.
- If you receive any scholarships, please email the Counseling Assistant with the specific college(s), the award(s) and the amount of the scholarship(s) - Mrs. Doredant : ldoredant@rummelraiders.com

May

- By May 1, decide on the one college that you will attend. By May 1, send in your tuition deposit to the college you will attend. You can only deposit at ONE college. Notify the other colleges that accepted you that you have selected another college and ask them to withdraw your application.
- BE PROUD---you have completed a difficult task.
- If your first-choice college places you on their waiting list, do not lose all hope. Some students are admitted off the waiting list. Contact the college to let them know you are still very interested. Keep the college updated on your activities.
- Take your Advanced Placement examinations, if appropriate and request that your AP scores be sent to the college you will attend.
- Your final transcript will be mailed to the colleges. **Please update SCOIR and select “Attend” so that the College office knows where to mail your final transcript.**

June

- Congratulations, you've made it through the college search process! Now you are alumni of Archbishop Rummel High School.
- Enjoy your graduation and look forward to college!

July- September

- Look for information in the mail from the college about housing, roommate(s), orientation, course selection, etc. Respond promptly to all requests from the college.
- Ease the transition into college. Accept the fact that you'll be in charge of your academic and personal life. What you do, when you do it and how things get done will be up to you. You'll have new responsibilities and challenges. Think about budgeting your time and establishing priorities. Take charge of the changes that lie ahead and eliminate or minimize pressures. Go forth with confidence and enthusiasm, willingness to adapt and determination to succeed academically and personally.
- Pack for college. There is a packing list on Canvas. Don't forget to include things that remind you of friends and family. Be prepared for the new opportunities and challenges. Have a great freshman year!