



College Planning Guide - Senior Year

You made it! Apply to colleges. Make decisions.

Finish high school with pride in yourself and your accomplishments.

August

- Move your list in “College that I’m Considering” to “Colleges I’m Applying To” in Naviance IF you plan to *definitely* apply to the colleges.
- Check application and financial aid deadlines for the schools to which you plan to apply. All this information can be found on Naviance.
- 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 the September ACT and/or the October SAT
- If you are applying to state universities, you may want to fill out the housing application. At many universities, the best housing choices are the first to fill. The opening date for housing applications can be found on the college’s website.

September

- 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) and also list the colleges on your Naviance account. Check the “yes” box next to the commonapp colleges on Naviance. If a college uses the commonapp, please use the commonapp.
- At least three weeks before the due date, ask your counselor or teachers to write letters of recommendation. Write thank-you notes to those who write recommendations and keep them informed of your decisions. Update Naviance 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 <http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/> FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and get a PIN for you and another one for your parents. The FAFSA application opens October 1.
- Check to see if the colleges to which you are applying require any other financial aid form. Register for the CSS Profile (also available October 1).
- If necessary to improve your scores, register for the December/January SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject Tests, or December ACT if you have not completed the required tests or if you are not happy with your previous test scores and think you can do better.
- Have official test scores sent by the testing agency to colleges on your list.
- Do not take rolling admission applications for granted. (Some colleges do not have application deadlines; they admit students on a continuous basis.) These schools may reach their maximum class size quickly. The earlier you apply, the more availability there may be.

November

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

December

- Have official test scores sent 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.

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.

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

- 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 input that information in the “Documents” section of Naviance and also e-mail your counselor.

April

- If you still want to investigate other schools, see your counselor. NACAC (the National Association of College Admission Counselors) publicizes a list of colleges that still have vacancies.
- If you know which college you will attend, send your tuition deposit and follow all other instructions for admitted students. You must decide which offer of admission to accept by May 1 (postmark date). A few colleges in Louisiana continue to accept applications throughout the summer.

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 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 Naviance and select “Attend” so that the College Guidance 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!