

12th Grade College Planning Timeline

ALL YEAR

- Keep your grades up- avoid “senioritis”! Many colleges require you to send an updated transcript during your spring semester. And you need to keep your grades up to graduate!
- Keep saving for college, but be prepared to spend some money for application fees (between \$15 and \$60 per college).

SUMMER BEFORE 12TH GRADE

- Try to go on college visits- remember to send thank you notes to anyone you meet with on campus.
- If you haven't already, make a list activities you've participated in, volunteer experiences, honors and awards since 9th grade.
- Practice writing college application essays.

AUGUST

- Make a list of colleges to which you want to apply and visit the websites of those colleges to make sure you know what's required to apply and be admitted, such as minimum ACT or SAT scores, GPA, or required high school classes.
- Register for and take the ACT or the SAT if you haven't taken either of them yet or want to retake the test.

SEPTEMBER

- Check on application due dates early in the fall semester. Many colleges have early action or early decision deadlines between Oct. 1 and Dec. 1.
- Give recommendation forms to teachers and counselors Use stamped, college-addressed envelopes and be sure you've accurately filled out every section.

OCTOBER

- Participate in College App Week in the fall and begin to submit your applications.
- Apply for the Tennessee Promise last-dollar scholarship by November 1, especially if you plan to attend a community college or a Tennessee College of Applied Technology.

NOVEMBER

- Submit as many of your applications as you can.
- Research scholarships and begin to apply for them.
- Calculate the cost of the different schools you're interested in and talk to their financial aid offices to determine how much each school will cost.

DECEMBER

- Make sure your official test scores, such as the ACT and SAT, have been sent to the colleges to which you are applying.

JANUARY

- Complete and submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) before February 15th. If you or your parents haven't filed taxes yet, use estimates based on last year's tax returns You can update your FAFSA once you file your taxes.
- Ask your high school to send transcripts to the colleges to which you are applying.
- If you applied for Tennessee Promise, attend the first of two required meetings with your partnering organization. (These meetings will be held in January or February.)

FEBRUARY

- Complete all of your scholarship applications.
- Contact the colleges to which you applied and make sure they have everything they need from you, both for your application and for financial aid.

MARCH-APRIL

- Update your FAFSA information once you've filed your taxes.
- You should start to receive most of your decision letters in March and April. Compare the colleges to which you were accepted and their financial aid and scholarship offers.
- If you applied for Tennessee Promise, attend the first of two required meetings with your partnering organization. (These meetings will be held in January or February.)

MAY

- Make a decision on where to attend college and notify that college!
- Have your high school send your final transcripts to your college after spring semester grades are finalized.
- Contact your college to check on deadlines for tuition, fees, and paperwork, such as health records.

