

Preparing For College Timeline

Junior Year

1. September: Register for the PSAT/NMSQT

2. Sept - Oct Test date: Review

3. October: Take the PSAT and attend College Fair

During the last two weeks of October most of the area school districts sponsor a college fair where admission office representatives from various colleges will be able to answer general questions about their school as well provide you with literature about what the college has to offer.

4. November - December: Review your PSAT Scores

Once you receive your scores review them and identify areas of weakness that you need to address/concentrate on in preparing for taking the SAT in May. Following the receipt of your scores sit with your guidance counselor and get the necessary information for signing up for the May SAT and sign up early so you can get your study guide for that test ASAP!

5. January - May SAT: Prepare for the SAT and plan to college visits.

January-May: Research potential colleges. Start completing prospective student athlete forms online or mail them to the school as soon as possible.

March: Spring Break-Plan a family trip to visit a few colleges you have an interest in. A great time for parents and students to get a feeling of a college campus. The vast majority of colleges offer tours year-round. Contact the school in advance about getting a tour of the school.

6. May

Enroll in NCAA Clearinghouses - Enroll in the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse and the NCAA Amateurism Certification Clearinghouse (required for fall 2006). Your school will be required to submit official transcripts to the Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse. Please follow-up with your counselors immediately following the last day of school to make sure transcripts are sent.

7. June - August

Summer Training: Most Division I colleges will be looking to make decisions on whether to recruit you off the results of your Long Course season after your Junior year. If you are considered one of their top prospects the college coach's goal will be to sign you in November.

Narrowing the field and visiting schools: From October-June you should start receiving mail from the various colleges. When mail arrives begin sorting the information into: Colleges of High Interest, Colleges of Moderate Interest, and Colleges of Little Interest. Summer is great time to make visiting colleges a family vacation. However, try not to plan long trips away from training since most colleges coaches are looking at your Long Course performance as an indicator for recruiting. Try to narrow your schools of interest down to 10-12 schools and if possible try to visit about half of them during the summer.

Senior Year

1. September-October: College Matching

A. Compare your test scores, GPA, and class rank with the colleges of high interest acceptance rates.

- B. Second look at your athletic performance/best times and do they mesh with needs of a college program.
- C. Review for the SAT and ACT exams.
- D. Conduct scholarship and financial aid searches.
- E. Take Recruiting Trips
- F. Complete early decision application: Some colleges programs will ask you to apply early decision meaning if you apply early decision and are accepted you are committing yourself to attending that school the following year.

2. October-December:

- A. Complete college applications.
- B. Recruiting trips.
- C. November: Early signing period NCAA Div I athletic programs.
- C. Begin applying for scholarships and grants
- D. Parents start getting data for Federal Tax Return ready in order to apply for FAFSA program. **FAFSA- Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

You must fill out the FAFSA form in order to apply for federal and state student assistance. Many colleges and universities, especially public institutions, also require the FAFSA. The www.finaid.org website section on the FAFSA contains a database of the Title IV School Codes needed to complete the form as well as instructions and tips for filling it out. The section also links to a variety of government sites related to the FAFSA, such as FAFSA Express (a PC version of the form) and FAFSA on the Web (an interactive online version of the form).

3. January-February:

- A. Complete and apply for scholarships
- B. Parents submit and apply for FAFSA program.
- C. Last of Recruiting Trips.
- D. Take ACT exam if not taken in November.

4. Late February-Early April:

- A. Receive acceptance, rejection, and waiting list letters from colleges.
- B. Receive Financial Aid information from FAFSA and package offers from colleges.
- C. Make a decision on which college to attend.
- D. Apply for campus related scholarships and student loans if necessary.

5. May-June:

High School Graduation - Congratulations!