

## SENIORS- STEPS TOWARDS COLLEGE

DUE DATE	TASK
ASAP	New seniors need to get me your SAT or ACT scores immediately. If you have a PE credit on your transcript, you are set. If you don't, I need to know what sports you have played or get your PE log.
ASAP	Register to take the ACT & SAT at the earliest possible date, to allow time to retake them for better scores. Dates will be posted at school and on the FCS website.
09/01	Meet with the guidance counselor if you have not already done so or if you have questions or need assistance.
09/01	Request recommendations from 3 teachers and have them e-mail them to the guidance counselor (if you did not do this last year). Please give plenty of notice to our teachers. These will be sent when you request them.
10/01	Fill out FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and complete online at <a href="http://www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a> . This must be submitted before you can be given any grants, scholarships or loans. Both the student as well as a parent needs to create an FSA ID (cannot be shared). The tax year used for the FAFSA is two years prior to graduation date, e.g. 2019 tax year for 2021 graduates.
10/1	Complete 5 college applications and submit. Be sure you understand the difference between Early Decision & Early Action before sending.
10/15	Request transcripts from the guidance counselor after submitting applications (form is on FCS website). Allow 2 days. She will send them to the colleges to which you have applied.
10/16	Check websites ( <a href="http://www.cfnc.org">www.cfnc.org</a> , <a href="http://www.unigo.com">www.unigo.com</a> , <a href="http://www.collegeboard.org">www.collegeboard.org</a> to name a few), bookstores and libraries regarding scholarships. Also, check colleges you plan on attending for inside scholarship opportunities. Most scholarship money runs out fast so time is of the essence.
After applications to college	Check on the portal of the colleges where you have applied and/or Common App or Coalition to see if all documentation is complete. If you are missing something, come see me immediately.

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November or when accepted	When you hear from each college, let the guidance counselor know the college's decision & the amount of scholarship money offered. Most schools should offer you a financial aid package. They should automatically include any state, federal, or their college grants that apply. If they don't, ask about it and ask what you need to do. (Many colleges won't be able to tell you until your FAFSA is submitted.)
02/01	Compare the financial aid packages of the colleges to which you have been accepted. If you or your parents have any extenuating circumstances (single parent, loss of job, unusual expenses, paying tuition for a sibling in a private school) that may qualify you for more grant money, your parents should make an appointment to meet personally with the Financial Aid Director of the college where you want to attend.
03/1	Seniors planning to attend a Community College or other Training Center should make an appointment to meet with someone there to register and take care of everything needed. Seniors planning to enlist in a branch of the Military should see a recruiter to take care of all that is required.
05/1	Complete and submit to the guidance counselor a "Request for Academic Transcript" with the name and address of the college you plan to attend so that a final transcript may be sent when grades are historic and accounts are clear.

