

Ready, Set, GO!

Senior Year Timeline



Senior Year

The culmination of your high school career is closer than ever, your hard work is about to pay off! Overwhelmed? That's understandable-there is a lot of information out there and this is a major life decision for you and your family. If you are a taskmaster get geared up, if you tend to procrastinate, ask for help and light the fire, because application season is here!

A little advice from your Dublin Counselors.

Remember, the college admissions process is not a prize to be won but a journey into finding the right fit. Students who think first about who they are and what they want are more likely to choose a college that fits them. It is important to be confident in what is right for you!

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FALL (Sep-Nov)

Take the SAT and/or ACT: If you feel like you can improve on your prior results, take the tests again this fall. See your counselor if you qualify for a fee waiver.

Revise college application essays. Once senior year begins, ask a teacher to proofread your application essays, make revisions, and prepare a final copy.

Ask for a letter/s of recommendation. At least 3 weeks before it is due, request a letter of recommendation face to face, then request the letter of recommendation in Naviance. Be sure to provide your recommender with a resume at the beginning and a thank you at the end of the process.

Create/add to your organizational system for your college search, testing, and application data. Keep an updated list of the schools you are applying to, all letters/forms from those schools, test scores, essays, and deadlines. Organization is the key to not having to do things last minute or missing a deadline!

Submit early decision application, if desired. Early decision requires a binding commitment in exchange for early acceptance.

Submit early action applications. For early action schools, you receive a decision early but can wait for the regular decision deposit deadline to make your final choice.

Send your official SAT and ACT scores. Remember, you must send your test scores directly from the testing sites for them to be considered official.

WINTER (Dec-Feb)

Submit regular decision applications. Most colleges have regular decision due dates sometime between January 1st and March 1st of each year.

Talk to admissions. Have a discussion with someone in admissions at your prospective colleges to be sure they have received all the information they need to make a decision in your favor.

Fill out and submit the FAFSA. FAFSA, the main determinant of federal financial aid, can be submitted after Jan 1 of your senior year. Submit ASAP, as some schools give aid on a first-come, first-serve basis.

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SPRING (Mar - May)

Receive decisions on regular applications. Regular decision applicants typically receive an accept/reject/wait-list response in March or April.

Compare financial aid packages from multiple schools. Once you are accepted, colleges will offer a financial aid package consisting of grants along with suggested loans and/or work-study.

Consider work-study. Many students consider work-study options offered by their college if they can not fully cover the cost of attendance through grants and scholarships. You can indicate your interest for work-study on the FAFSA and by contacting your college's financial aid office.

Consider loans. Many students consider loans for college if they can not fully cover the cost of attendance through grants, scholarships, and work-study.

Submit your enrollment deposit. The final date to submit a deposit and lock in your place for non-early decision is typically May 1st.

Take AP/IB exams. These exams are an opportunity to potentially earn college credit.

SUMMER (Jun - Aug)

Complete ongoing enrollment paperwork for your college. Once you've decided on a college, you will receive updates regarding orientation, scheduling, and housing. Don't miss an important deadline. Keep your papers organized.

Be confident in the decision you have made. If you and your family have spent the time, money and energy it takes to complete thoughtful post-high school planning, you should be confident in your future plans. **Enjoy!**

Sources:

NACAC: www.nacacnet.org/

KHAN Academy: <https://www.khanacademy.org>