



HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR PREPARING FOR COLLEGE TIMELINE

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All Year

- _____ Keep your focus on schoolwork and take the most difficult classes you can handle.
- _____ Take career interest assessments and determine the education needed for careers that interest you.
- _____ Participate in extracurricular activities.
- _____ Volunteer in the community.

August

- _____ Sign up for the ACT if you didn't take it as a junior, or if you aren't satisfied with your score.
- _____ Review ACT test results, and retest if necessary.

August to December

- _____ Visit with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements.
- _____ Consider taking courses at a local university or community college.
- _____ Ask for personal references from teachers, school counselors, or employers early in the year or at least two weeks before application deadline.
- _____ Follow your school's procedure for requesting recommendations.
- _____ Visit with admissions counselors who come to your high school.
- _____ Attend college fairs.
- _____ Begin your college admission essay(s).
- _____ Apply for admission at the South Dakota public universities or South Dakota Technical Institutes you have selected.
- _____ Avoid common college application mistakes.
- _____ Find out if you qualify for scholarships at each college where you have applied.
- _____ Start the financial aid and scholarship application process.

January to May

- _____ If you need it, get help completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) .
- _____ Ask your guidance office in January to send first semester transcripts to schools where you applied. In May, they will need to send final transcripts to the college you will attend.
- _____ Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll.
- _____ Decide which college to attend, and notify the school of your decision.
- _____ Keep track of and observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork.
- _____ Notify schools you will not attend of your decision.
- _____ Continue to look for scholarship opportunities.
- _____ Keep track of important financial aid and scholarship deadlines.
- _____ Watch the mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR)-it should arrive four weeks after the FAFSA is filed.
- _____ Notify your college about any outside scholarships you received.

June to August

- _____ Make sure your final transcript is sent to the school you will be attending.
- _____ Make a list of what you will need to take with you for your dorm room.
- _____ Learn about your roommate before you meet her at college.
- _____ Make sure housing documentation is quickly accessible when you move into the dorm.
- _____ Learn how to get around at your new school. Review a campus map.
- _____ Wait until after your first class meeting to buy your books and supplies.

Summer

- _____ Get a job to earn money for college.
- _____ Review orientation materials from the college you selected.
- _____ If living on campus, check with the college for a list of what's provided by the school and what the school expects the student to provide.
- _____ Contact your roommate.