



# PREPPING FOR COLLEGE



## SENIOR YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR

During your senior year, you will finalize your college choice. This year is filled with admission applications, scholarship essays, financial aid information and the need to meet deadlines. Throughout your senior year, continue to build your resume by achieving academic success, as well as participating in extra-curricular activities. Colleges are very interested in well-rounded students.

### **OCTOBER**

- ◆ October 7th SAT. Register by September 8th.
- ◆ October 28th ACT. Register by September 22nd.
- ◆ Take the ACT (with Writing) and/or the SAT (remember to take appropriate subject tests if you choose to).
- ◆ October 1st CSU Application open. Start applying!!!
- ◆ Work on your admissions essays. Ask your English teachers to proof your writing.
- ◆ Visit your top school choices. If possible, make appointments with faculty, staff, and students. Remember, to get your absences pre-approved!
- ◆ Complete applications for every scholarship for which you may be eligible, if applications are available.
- ◆ Get organized - make a folder for your colleges.
- ◆ Contact the schools' financial aid offices to determine which forms they require.
- ◆ Finalize portfolios, auditions, writing samples, or other evidence of talent if required for admission.
- ◆ As soon as possible after October 1st complete your FAFSA online or go to [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov) to download a PDF version of the FAFSA. Keep copies of all documents, including your PIN, in a file. When tax forms are complete, log back in and update financial information.
- ◆ Contact the U.S. Department of Education at 800-4-FEDAID for assistance completing the FAFSA.
- ◆ Complete your CalGrant form and return to Mrs. Lajoie for submission.
- ◆ Complete the CSS Profile if you are applying to a private university. This is somewhat like the FAFSA, except more detailed.

### **NOVEMBER**

- ◆ November 2nd College Fair 6:00-8:00 at SBHS
- ◆ November 4th SAT. Register by October 5th.
- ◆ November 30th UC, CSU and many Common App colleges application deadline.
- ◆ Complete admissions applications by their deadlines. November 30th for UC's and CSU's
- ◆ If necessary, register to retake the SAT and/or ACT with Writing.
- ◆ Follow up to ensure your employers, teachers, and school counselors send letters of recommendation.

### **DECEMBER**

- ◆ December 2nd SAT. Register by November 2nd.
- ◆ December 9th ACT. Register by November 3rd.
- ◆ You and your parents need to sign up for a PIN to complete your FAFSA online.
- ◆ Finalize admissions applications for any private colleges
- ◆ Urge your parents to file their taxes as soon as possible after January 1st.
- ◆ Research and apply for other financial aid, including grants and scholarships. Remember APPLY for FINANCIAL AID!!!
- ◆ Watch for early admissions notices (they tend to arrive in December or January).



## **FEBRUARY**

- ◆ Be mindful of deadlines. Always submit information on time.
- ◆ Watch for notices indicating your Student Aid Report (SAR) from the FAFSA is ready.
- ◆ Review your SAR for errors and make any corrections as indicated.
- ◆ Rank your top school choices. Continue to work hard in your classes. Don't get "senioritis."

## **MARCH**

- ◆ March 2nd FAFSA deadline.
- ◆ Check with the financial aid offices to ensure your paperwork is complete. Submit tax forms if they request them.
- ◆ Narrow your school choices and make campus visits.
- ◆ Be on the lookout for acceptance letters
- ◆ Start looking for summer jobs.

## **APRIL**

- ◆ Compare financial aid award letters.
- ◆ Make your final school decision and mail deposits, as required. Check with the institution for the absolute latest date you may make this decision.
- ◆ Check with the school you've chosen about returning financial aid award letters.
- ◆ Notify the schools you have chosen NOT to attend. Be sure the financial aid award is sufficient before notifying these schools.
- ◆ Plan for registration, orientation, and housing, and mark your calendar with important dates.

## **MAY**

- ◆ Be aware of any summer orientation sessions that you must attend at the school in which you will enroll, and make plans accordingly.
- ◆ Finalize your summer job plans, and make a plan for saving a portion of your summer earnings.
- ◆ Prepare a realistic student budget.
- ◆ Follow up with your high school to ensure Mrs. Lajoie forwards your final school transcripts to the college.

## **JUNE**

- ◆ Plan for college transportation.
- ◆ Notify the school counseling office where to send your final transcript
- ◆ Follow up with the financial aid office to ensure all paperwork is complete.
- ◆ Save money from your summer job.
- ◆ Send "thank you notes" to everyone who helped you plan and prepare for college.

**CONGRATUALTIONS! You are ready to begin an awesome journey...good luck and be SAFE**  
**Mrs. Lajoie – [nlajoie@saintbonaventure.com](mailto:nlajoie@saintbonaventure.com) – Junior and Senior Counselor**



## FAFSA AND FINANCIAL AID FOR SENIORS

**Opens: October 1st**

**Deadline: March 2**

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available online from October 1 – March 2, 2017. If you are planning to attend college next fall and hope to receive financial aid, it's important to complete the form and submit it as soon as possible, as some financial aid is provided on a first-come, first-served basis.

Here are some of the items you will need:

- Your Social Security number and your parents' Social Security numbers, if you are a dependent.
- Your driver's license number, if you have one.
- 2016 federal tax information for you and your parents if you are providing parent information. If you have not filed your taxes, you can still submit your FAFSA by estimating family income.
- Records of untaxed income, such as Social Security benefits, welfare benefits, and veterans' benefits for you and your parents.
- Students should check with each college to see if there are additional documents that need to be filed.

Steps in applying for financial aid:

- Visit [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) (NOT [fafsa.com](http://fafsa.com)) to get started. The deadline to submit the FAFSA is March 2, 2017.
- File the FAFSA as soon as possible. You may file before your tax returns are available by estimating your 2016 income, then log back into [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov) to add the actual figures.
- Give your Cal Grant forms to Mrs. Lajoie for GPA verification. She will be sending the GPA's electronically.
- Apply for scholarships and grants in addition to any aid your college offers.
- Keep track of progress. Monitor all information you receive from individual colleges regarding fees, payment schedules, etc.
- Federal Financial Aid programs include – Federal Direct Loans, Federal Pell Grant, Federal Perkins Loan Program, Federal PLUS, Federal Subsidized Stafford Loans, Federal Unsubsidized Stafford Loans and Federal Work Study.