

Junior College Planning Timeline

September:

- Meet with college representatives who visit SWCHS.
- Attend the NACCAP Christian College Fair.

October:

- Take the PSAT during All School Testing Day.
- Attend the National College Fair in Minneapolis and other college fairs.
- Visit colleges during MCIS weekend
- Begin to research scholarships. MCIS is a great resource.
- Get involved! Activities will help you branch out and it looks good on a college application. Consider a sport, club or volunteer opportunities.

November:

- Schedule an appointment with your counselor to discuss school performance, GPA and post-high plans.
- Review course work to see if it meets college/career/NCAA requirements.
- Research careers that appeal to you. Check MCIS to learn about potential careers.
- Arrange job shadowing opportunities with people in career positions that interest you.
- Talk with family and friends to learn more about their college experience.

December:

- Review ACT test dates and register for a test at www.actstudent.org

January:

- Study for the ACT or SAT.
- Review your PSAT results for strengths and weaknesses.
- Review high school courses that are still needed to help reach your career/educational goals.
- Map out a plan to include these courses for your senior year.

February:

- Continue college and career exploration by visiting MCIS for college planning and exploration sites.
- Review admission criteria and program offerings.

March:

- Visit colleges that interest you so that you can experience the campus in action.
- Schedule school visits over spring break.

April:

- Attend spring college fairs.
- Gather information about schools you selected to narrow your choices. Contact the schools for more information and have them send you catalogs and applications or review their web page for information and applications.
- Consider majors, quality of education, cost, and location.
- Talk to students who attended the schools.
- Take the ACT.

May:

- Investigate summer job or volunteer opportunities.
- Take AP exams.
- Apply for a summer job if you have not already done so and add your earnings to a college savings account.
- Submit NCAA Eligibility Form if you plan on participating in a Division I or II sport in college.

June/July:

- Schedule visits with schools in which you are interested.
- Continue searching for scholarship.
- Build a list of colleges that meet your criteria and your interest. Note their application deadlines and testing requirements.



SENIOR Planning Timeline

September:

- Explore and begin to narrow your post-high options.
- Meet with your counselor to discuss future plans.
- Take or retake the ACT/SAT.
- Meet with college representatives who visit SWCHS.
- Ensure that your high school courses meet college/career/ NCAA requirements.
- Start college admission applications. Determine whether early application is offered. Often a November 1 deadline.
- Review the list of scholarships available.

October:

- Register for Campus Visit Days at schools you are considering. Check out classrooms, dorms, facilities, etc. Remember to ask lots of questions.
- Complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible (opens October 1).
- Attend college fairs.
- Visit colleges during MEA break.
- Continue filling out your applications and working on essays. Schedule an interview if necessary.
- Ask individuals if they will write letters of recommendation for you. Give them plenty of time to complete.
- Apply for early admission decision, if interested.
- Research private sources for scholarships... www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com.
- Talk with your parents about the information needed to complete the financial aid application.

November:

- Check to be sure that you have registered for the appropriate entrance tests.
- Schedule admission interviews, if necessary.
- Work on application essays.
- Ensure that your college application is complete; check with college.
- Keep a file copy of all applications.
- Complete scholarship essays and applications.

December:

- Meet the priority deadline for college applications.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.

Early January:

- If you have not submitted your financial aid application, do so. Some financial aid is given on a first come, first serve basis.
- Review your status on all applications.

February:

- Check deadlines for financial aid applications and housing applications at all colleges you are considering.
- If possible, visit all colleges to which you have applied.
- If you have not applied for admission to a college, DO SO NOW! It may not be too late.
- Register with the Selective Service if you are an 18 year old male. www.sss.gov (To receive loans from the federal government, young men turning 18 MUST register for Selective Service.)

March:

- Review your financial Student Aid Report (SAR) for accuracy.

April:

- Review college acceptance notices. Complete necessary forms. Finalize your choices.
- Confirm that housing, course registration and financial aid are in order for the school you will be attending.
- Review scholarship acceptance notices and rejection information. Complete necessary forms.
- Start watching for your financial aid award letter(s). Compare the offers from all schools. Consider not only the total dollar amounts, but also the types of aid offered. Sign and return your financial aid award letter to confirm that you want the aid.
- Apply for summer jobs – many financial awards assume student financial contribution.
- Keep up academic work. Colleges will review your final grades.

May:

- Notify all colleges to which you applied, but do not plan to attend.
- Take Advanced Placement (AP) exams.
- Make sure your final transcript has been sent to the college that you plan to attend.

June/July:

- Attend orientation meetings offered by the college you are attending.

