Rising Senior Monthly Timeline

JUNE-SEPTEMBER 2023

- Register for the SAT and/or ACT if you didn’t take a college entrance exam as a junior or want to take one again.
- Look at some college applications and consider all the pieces of information you will need to compile.
- Take every opportunity to get to know colleges. Meet with college representatives who visit SCA in the fall, attend college fairs, and visit campuses.
- Narrow down your list of colleges. Collect information about the application and financial aid process at each school. Use SCOIR to filter through colleges and compare them side by side.
- Create a checklist and calendar to keep track of:
  - standardized test dates, registration deadlines, and fees
  - college application due dates
  - financial aid deadlines
  - Other materials you’ll need for college applications (letters of recommendations, transcripts, essays, etc.)
- Request a letter of recommendations from teachers and school counselor. If you haven’t already requested these from a teacher, complete the Letter of Recommendation Form and provide it to the teacher (at least two teachers) in August.

OCTOBER 2023

- File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The FAFSA (will be available October 1. Visit www.fafsa.gov
- Some colleges will have deadlines as early as October. These would include Rolling Admission, Early Decision and Early Action deadlines.
- Many colleges provide fee waivers in October.
- Finalize your college essay. Many schools will require that you submit at least one essay with your application.
- Research possibilities of scholarships. The counseling department will send scholarship opportunities throughout the year. There are also some good scholarship websites, including FastWeb (www.fastweb.com) and College Board (bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search). You should never pay for scholarship information.

NOVEMBER 2023

- Finalize and send any Early Decision or Early Action applications due this month (Nov. 1st deadline on the Common App). Have a parent, teacher, counselor, or other adult review the application before it is submitted.
- Every college will require a copy of your transcript from your high school. SCA sends transcripts through Parchment only.
- Request your ACT/SAT scores to be sent directly to the colleges to which you are applying.

DECEMBER 2023

- Begin to organize regular decision applications and financial aid forms, which will be due in January and/or February.
- Register for the January SAT/ACT (if needed). It is the last one college will be able to consider for a senior. This is only if you have not taken one yet.

JANUARY 2024

- Many popular and selective colleges will have application deadlines as early as January 1. Others have deadlines later in January and February. Keep track of and observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork.
- Request 7th semester (or 1st semester senior year) transcripts to be sent to schools you applied to. You will also need to do this at the end of the year for a final transcript.
- File for FAFSA (no later than Feb 1). The sooner you complete it, the sooner you will have an idea of your financial aid options. Watch the mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR)—it should arrive four weeks after the FAFSA is filed.

FEBRUARY – APRIL 2024

- While most of your applications are complete and you are waiting to receive admission decisions, don’t slack in the classroom. The college that you attend will want to see your second semester transcript. Resist Senioritis!!
- Acceptance letters and financial aid offers will start to arrive. Review your acceptances, compare financial aid packages, and visit your final choices, especially if you haven’t already.

MAY 2024

- May 1 is the date when the college you plan to attend requires a commitment and deposit. When you’ve made your college decision, notify your counselor and the colleges. Send in your deposit by the postmark date of May 1. If you’ve been offered financial aid, accept the offer, and follow the instructions given. Notify schools you will not attend of your decision.
- If you are “wait listed” by a college you really want to attend, visit, call and write the admission office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your application.

JUNE 2024

- Congratulations, you did it!!
- Make sure that you have requested that your final transcript be sent to the school you will be attending.
- It’s been a long journey through high school and to college. Enjoy your summer!