

College Planning Calendar

Junior Year



September—February

- ✓ Talk with friends, parents, school counselor and faculty about colleges and careers.
- ✓ Organize a file box of personal and institutional information on college & career opportunities.
- ✓ Review and analyze PSAT scores.
- ✓ Take ACT/SAT prep course.
- ✓ Visit with college representatives in the Career Center.
- ✓ Attend the fall college fair at Rock Valley College.
- ✓ Register for senior courses.
- ✓ Take the most demanding program possible and maintain good grades.
- ✓ Attend college night.

March

- ✓ Earnestly begin your college search.
- ✓ Complete the self-assessment process.
- ✓ Attend the college fair at the Rock Valley College.
- ✓ Visit colleges over spring break, if possible.
- ✓ Register for ACT and/or SAT I tests if appropriate.
- ✓ Register for AP exams if applicable.

April

- ✓ Take the ACT & PSAT

May

- ✓ Take the SAT I, if applicable.
- ✓ Take AP exams, if applicable.
- ✓ Start to narrow choices through research, visits, and talks with your counselor and parents.

June—August

- ✓ Take the SAT II if needed.
- ✓ Write or call colleges for information. Work on college essay ideas.
- ✓ Revise and begin to finalize your college list.

College Planning Calendar

Senior Year



September

- ✓ Attend Senior Meetings with counselor during assigned time.
- ✓ Meet with your counselor further, if needed.
- ✓ Continue your college search. Inquire about applications in the Counseling office, call/write the colleges or visit college websites.
- ✓ Continue working on rough draft essays and applications.
- ✓ Watch the scholarship bulletin for opportunities and deadlines.
- ✓ Investigate scholarships that may be available at prospective colleges.
- ✓ Register to take the SAT I and II/ACT tests if you need to take or retake them.
- ✓ Politely ask teachers to write recommendations if required.

October

- ✓ Take/re-take the ACT or SAT test, if needed.
- ✓ Follow-up on teacher/counselor recommendations to be sure they have been completed.
- ✓ Start submitting applications to your counselor. Be sure to check deadlines—especially for early admission programs. Most of your applications should be submitted to the Guidance Office by late October or early November.
- ✓ Check deadlines.

November

- ✓ Continue the application process, but watch for deadlines.

December

- ✓ Parents: Attend Financial Aid Night at BHS.
- ✓ Some college acceptance letters may arrive. Be sure to check for special information in the letter.
- ✓ All college applications with a January deadline must be turned in to your counselor by the end of the first week of December in order to allow time for processing and mailing before the winter break.

January-February

- ✓ Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which is required for those applying for financial aid. This can be done online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- ✓ Priority Deadline is always March 1.

March

- ✓ Register for AP Exams if appropriate.
- ✓ Watch for the Student Aid Report (SAR) to arrive, stating the expected family contribution. Make sure your colleges have received it. Keep the original.

April

- ✓ All colleges should respond by the first week of April.
- ✓ Decide which college you wish to attend and send a deposit to one school.
- ✓ Inform your counselor and teachers of the selected choice.

May

- ✓ Notify the colleges to which you were admitted but do not plan to attend.
- ✓ Notify the college or university in which you plan to attend by May 1.
- ✓ Take AP exams if appropriate
- ✓ Turn in your final transcript request.
- ✓ Congratulations! Graduation is finally here!