

# 12th GRADE High School Planning Timeline

“Everybody has a dream, but not everybody has a grind.” .. Eric Thomas

**FALL SEMESTER:** This is the start of the next Phase of your Life. It will BE AWESOME!

- KEEP STUDYING!** You want to **AVOID "SENIORITIS"** — a drop in motivation and, consequently, grades, that is sometimes experienced by seniors.
- Talk to your counselor about possibilities for concurrent enrollment** (taking college-credit courses while you're still in high school).
- Some colleges require the CSS/PROFILE, a supplemental financial aid form, in addition to the FAFSA.** *Find out if your schools will need this.*



## August

Examine each task for the month listed and check off what you have completed so far. You must **SUBMIT EVIDENCE** of task completion. Then, **WRITE A REFLECTION** on your thoughts/feelings about your progress so far (or lack of progress and explain why). Then, discuss your next steps. (1-2 paragraphs) **KEEP IN YOUR SENIOR JOURNAL.**

- Check **AP SCORES** from previous years.
- Create an account with [Collegeboard.org](https://collegeboard.org) if you don't already have one.
- Create an account with [CFNC.org](https://cfnc.org) if you don't already have one.
- BEFORE YOU SUBMIT ANY APPLICATIONS YOU MUST COMPLETE YOUR RDS**
  - [North Carolina Residency Determination Service](#) (*Directions*)

## September

Examine each task for the month listed and check off what you have completed so far. You must **SUBMIT EVIDENCE** of task completion. Then, **WRITE A REFLECTION** on your thoughts/feelings about your progress so far (or lack of progress and explain why). Then, discuss your next steps. (1-2 paragraphs) **KEEP IN YOUR SENIOR JOURNAL.**



## September continued

- Check your transcripts to make sure you have all the credits you need to get into the colleges that interest you.** Find out from the colleges whether or not they need official copies of your transcripts (these are sent directly from your school).
- Register for the October/November SAT, SAT Subject, and ACT tests if you plan to take them.**
  - SAT Test:** \_\_\_\_\_ *Registration Deadline:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Late Registration Deadline:* \_\_\_\_\_
  - SAT Test:** \_\_\_\_\_ *Registration Deadline:* \_\_\_\_\_ *Late Registration Deadline:* \_\_\_\_\_
  - ACT Test:** \_\_\_\_\_ *Registration Deadline:* \_\_\_\_\_
  - ACT Test:** \_\_\_\_\_ *Registration Deadline:* \_\_\_\_\_
    - see [therealwestmeck.weebly.com](http://therealwestmeck.weebly.com) for SAT information on ALL Test Dates and Registration
- Be sure that you are continuing a schedule with courses of rigor and do not become overcommitted (i.e., too many clubs, sports, jobs, etc.).
- Take another look at your list of colleges, and make sure they still satisfy your requirements.** It's not uncommon for students' goals to change.
  - Continue researching your Top 10 colleges with the purpose of narrowing down to a Top 3–5.
  - Visit colleges of interest and attend college fairs.
  - Determine if you are applying for an “impacted major,” which may require higher admission standards.
  - Make sure you meet the requirements** (including any transcript requirements) **for all the colleges to which you want to apply.** Double-check the deadlines.
  - Examine college applications and record application deadlines in your agenda/planner.
  - Determine application options (early decision, early action, or regular decision).
  - Narrow your list of potential colleges to 1–2 “stretch schools” where you might be on the lower GPA and SAT<sup>®</sup>/ACT<sup>®</sup> score average, 1–2 “strong match schools” where you meet the schools’ average GPA and SAT/ACT average, and 1 “fallback school” that you are certain you will get into.
  - Compute final GPA to be submitted on applications.
  - Keep your grades up and stay in challenging courses! 75% of revoked acceptances are because seniors do poorly in classes or take too light of a load!

## *September continued*

- Give any recommendation forms to the appropriate teachers or counselors with stamped, college addressed envelopes, making certain that your portions of the forms are filled out completely and accurately.
- Most early decision and early action applications are due between October 1 and November 1.** Keep this in mind if you intend to take advantage of these options, and remember to request that your high school send your official transcripts to the college on time.
  - [CFNC.ORG](http://CFNC.ORG)
- Update résumé.
- Ask for an unofficial transcript.
- Research financial aid requirements and deadlines.**

## October

Examine each task for the month listed and check off what you have completed so far. You must **SUBMIT EVIDENCE** of task completion. Then, **WRITE A REFLECTION** on your thoughts/feelings about your progress so far (or lack of progress and explain why). Then, discuss your next steps. (1-2 paragraphs) **KEEP IN YOUR SENIOR JOURNAL.**

- Apply for your FSA ID pin.
- Complete the FAFSA application.** (FAFSA Opens October 1 every year!)
- Make a final list of schools that interest you and keep a file of deadlines and required admission items for each school.** Many students like to have a "dream school" and a "safety school" as well as two or three others
  - [Post Secondary Plans](#)
- Take the SAT or ACT tests. Have the official scores sent by the testing agency to the colleges or universities that have made your final list of schools.** Register for December or January SAT and SAT Subject tests, if necessary.
- Get started on any essays (revise) to be included with your applications.** Give your essays to others (teachers, parents, friends) for feedback before you submit.
  - [College Application Essay Tips](#)

## *October continued*

- Request fee waivers from your counselor** (if applicable).
- Submit public college applications online.
- Submit applications if applying “early decision.”
- Be sure you include courses you’ve taken at a community college on your applications.
- Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 1 scholarship for the month of October.
- Study for the final SAT/ACT test.**

## **November**

Examine each task for the month listed and check off what you have completed so far. You must **SUBMIT EVIDENCE** of task completion. Then, **WRITE A REFLECTION** on your thoughts/feelings about your progress so far (or lack of progress and explain why). Then, discuss your next steps. (1-2 paragraphs) **KEEP IN YOUR SENIOR JOURNAL.**

- Submit your college admission applications. Be sure to check them over thoroughly!**  
Having someone else review your application with you can help you catch any errors.
- Be sure to consult with your school counselor about scholarship opportunities.** Not all scholarships are for top students and athletes. There may be a perfect scholarship for you — it's worth doing a little research.
  - Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 3 scholarships in November and December.
  - [Scholarship Finder](#)
  - Work on your scholarship applications, and submit according to deadlines.
- Check with the financial aid office of schools you are applying to for specific information on scholarships and costs for tuition, fees, room and board, and any additional financial aid info they require.**
- Keep those grades up! Reach out for help if you feel like you are falling behind.

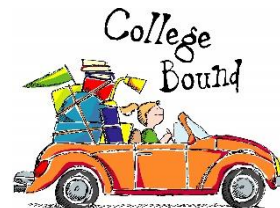
## December

Examine each task for the month listed and check off what you have completed so far. You must **SUBMIT EVIDENCE** of task completion. Then, **WRITE A REFLECTION** on your thoughts/feelings about your progress so far (or lack of progress and explain why). Then, discuss your next steps. (1-2 paragraphs) **KEEP IN YOUR SENIOR JOURNAL.**

- Be sure to consult with your school counselor about scholarship opportunities.** Not all scholarships are for top students and athletes. There may be a perfect scholarship for you — it's worth doing a little research.
  - Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 3 scholarships
- Watch your inbox if you submitted an early decision application.** Early decision replies usually arrive between December 1 and 31. If you do get an acceptance, you should withdraw any other applications.
- If you haven't already done so, make sure your official test scores are being sent to the colleges to which you are applying.
- Schedule any remaining required interviews.**
- Start thinking about how you're going to spend your summer. Summer is a great time to earn extra money and gain work experience.** Ask your counselor about internships, and start researching the summer job market in your area.
- Keep those grades up! Reach out for help if you feel like you are falling behind.



**SPRING SEMESTER:** Only 6 months to go. Slow and Steady wins the race



**January**

Examine each task for the month listed and check off what you have completed so far. You must **SUBMIT EVIDENCE** of task completion. Then, **WRITE A REFLECTION** on your thoughts/feelings about your progress so far (or lack of progress and explain why). Then, discuss your next steps. (1-2 paragraphs) **KEEP IN YOUR SENIOR JOURNAL.**

- Make sure your parents have completed their income tax forms in anticipation of the financial aid applications.** If you have to file taxes this year, do it as soon as possible. You'll need to do this for any financial aid forms.
- Complete and submit your college financial aid application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) between January 1 and February 15.** Go to the FAFSA on the Web form at: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). **Submit your FAFSA as close to January 1st as possible.**
- Check for other financial aid options.** In order to be considered for financial aid, you will need to submit a FAFSA, even if you have not yet been notified of your acceptance to the college(s) to which you applied.
- If you don't already have a good computer, investigate purchasing one for college.** You or your parents can subsidize the cost of a computer for college in your student loans.
- Request that your high school send your official transcripts to the colleges to which you are applying.**
- Contact the admissions office of the colleges to which you have applied to make sure that your information has been received, and that they have everything they need from you.**
- Keep an eye out for financial aid workshops and seminars, for both you and your parents. There is a lot of help out there when you're looking for info on financial aid.
  - [Financial Aid Wizard](#)

## January continued

- Make sure all test scores (SAT, ACT, AP®) have been submitted to colleges/universities where you have applied.
- Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for the month of January.
- Be sure to contact colleges early if there were unexpected changes to your class schedule.

## February

Examine each task for the month listed and check off what you have completed so far. You must **SUBMIT EVIDENCE** of task completion. Then, **WRITE A REFLECTION** on your thoughts/feelings about your progress so far (or lack of progress and explain why). Then, discuss your next steps. (1-2 paragraphs) **KEEP IN YOUR SENIOR JOURNAL.**

- If you completed the FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within four weeks.** Make the necessary corrections and return it to the FAFSA processor.
- Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 3 scholarships.
- Research dorm applications and deadlines.
- Contact the financial aid office of the colleges to which you have applied to make sure your information has been received, and that they have everything they need from you.**



## **March - April**

Examine each task for the month listed and check off what you have completed so far. You must **SUBMIT EVIDENCE** of task completion. Then, **WRITE A REFLECTION** on your thoughts/feelings about your progress so far (or lack of progress and explain why). Then, discuss your next steps. (1-2 paragraphs) **KEEP IN YOUR SENIOR JOURNAL.**

- Study for upcoming AP exams.
- At the end of March, follow up with colleges that you haven't heard from to be sure they have everything they need (transcript, SAT/ACT scores, essays, fee waiver, etc.).
- Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for April. (Look into scholarships at the college/university that you plan to attend.)
- Be sure to submit your housing application to the school that you plan to attend.
- Research the placement tests that you will need to take (and pass) at the college that you plan to attend.
- You will probably hear from the colleges as to whether or not you are accepted by April 15.**
- Were you denied admission? Don't give up, contact the admissions office, and ask if there is an appeal process.
- Compare your acceptance letters, financial aid and scholarship offers.** These are all important things to consider when choosing a college.
  - [How to select a College or University](#)
- When you choose a college that has accepted you, you will be required to pay a non-refundable deposit for freshman tuition.** This should ensure your place in the entering freshman class.
- Don't slack! Finish strong. A drop in grades is the number one reason that colleges revoke admissions (over 50%).





## **May**

Examine each task for the month listed and check off what you have completed so far. You must **SUBMIT EVIDENCE** of task completion. Then, **WRITE A REFLECTION** on your thoughts/feelings about your progress so far (or lack of progress and explain why). Then, discuss your next steps. (1-2 paragraphs) **KEEP IN YOUR SENIOR JOURNAL.**

**Decision time! You should decide on a college by May 1.** Notify that school by mailing your commitment deposit check. Many schools require that your notification letter be postmarked by this date.

[How to select a College or University](#)

- If you were placed on a waiting list for a particular college and have decided to wait for an opening, contact that college and let them know you are still very interested.**
- Make a decision about which college you will attend and notify the college that you will attend.
- Notify schools that you are not attending.
- Send deposits for housing (if you haven't already).
- Sign up for orientation.
- Enroll and take English and Math Placement Tests for colleges. (Tests are generally given May through July.)
- Take AP exams. Be sure test scores are sent to the appropriate colleges.
- Look into taking college courses at a local community college (especially courses that cover any remediation or first-year classes, if you haven't passed).
- Be sure you send official transcripts from courses taken at the community college to the college you will attend.
- Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships.** (Look into scholarships at the college/university that you plan to attend.)
- See your physician to get a meningitis shot and vaccinations (if necessary), as you will need this to attend college.
- Write thank-you notes to teachers and your counselor for helping you through the process.**

## June

Examine each task for the month listed and check off what you have completed so far. You must **SUBMIT EVIDENCE** of task completion. Then, **WRITE A REFLECTION** on your thoughts/feelings about your progress so far (or lack of progress and explain why). Then, discuss your next steps. (1-2 paragraphs) **KEEP IN YOUR SENIOR JOURNAL.**

### **Complete AVID Senior Data.**

- Make a decision about which college you will attend and notify the college that you will attend.
  - Contact your college to determine when fees for tuition, room and board are due, and how much they will cost.**
- Notify schools that you are not attending.
- Have your school send your final transcripts to the college you will be attending.**
- Sign up for orientation.
- Enroll and take English and Math Placement Tests for colleges. (Tests are generally given May through July.)
- Be sure AP test scores are sent to the appropriate colleges.
- Look into taking college courses at a local community college (especially courses that cover any remediation or first-year classes, if you haven't passed).
- Be sure you send official transcripts from courses taken at the community college to the college you will attend.
- Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships. (Look into scholarships at the college/university that you plan to attend.)
- Sign up to be an AVID tutor next year.
- See your physician to get a meningitis shot and vaccinations (if necessary), as you will need this to attend college.
- Write thank-you notes to teachers and your counselor for helping you through the process.
- Take a day to celebrate the fact that you graduated and are one step closer to your dreams of college.



## Senior Year Checklist: Early Summer

- Participate in any summer orientation programs for incoming freshmen.**
  - Enroll in classes (refer back to 14.12 The 4-Year College Plan).
  - [Explore Schools](#)
  
- Be sure you have completed and passed placement tests for English and math.
- Send official score reports to college from ACT/SAT.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Talk to counselor about sending final transcript to college.
- Contact your roommate:
  - Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  - Email: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Contact financial aid office at the college that you plan to attend to be sure they have everything they need:
  - Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Sign up for work study (contact financial aid office/career services at the campus):
  - Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_
  
- Search campus job opportunities.
- Accept financial aid and determine if you need to accept student loans (tuition, housing, books).
- Examine your chosen school using Websites for the AVID Elective Teacher and Student Worksheet (*Preparing for College*, pp. 285–288).
- FIND OUT HOW TO LOG IN TO CAMPUS WEBSITE AND YOUR STUDENT EMAIL. A lot of important emails may come to the new college email, and you will miss it if you aren't checking.
- Now that you know you will be attending college in the fall, it is a good idea to make sure you have student health insurance in case of any emergencies.**

## **Senior Year Checklist: Late Summer**

- Check out campus organization, clubs, etc.
- Be sure that AP scores are sent to college and adjust first semester schedule accordingly.
- Attend orientation:
  - Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Set up appointment with academic advisor.
- Get student ID card.
- BE SURE YOU SIGN INTO YOUR COLLEGE EMAIL ACCOUNT!
- Pack. (Coordinate larger items with roommate.)
- Obtain parking permits.
- Determine if professors have posted syllabi and look into purchasing books.

## **Early First Semester (Freshman Year of College)**

- Check out tutoring opportunities.
- Study, study, study. (Remember that studying in college is not just doing homework; it is reading the book and reviewing your notes every day.)
- Visit the Financial Aid Office and find out about scholarship opportunities.
- Look into extracurricular activities.
- Go to the Tutoring Center on campus and find out about resources.
- Introduce yourself to your professor.
- Follow Study Group Plan.
- Calendar dates of homework and tests.
- Critically read the syllabi to examine grading expectations and midterm/final projects or tests.
- Attend at least one set of professor office hours during the first two weeks.
- Talk with other students from your classes and share contact info (for study groups, missed classes).
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Set up a study group with students from your class (friends from dorm).

## *Senior Year Checklist: Early First Semester (Freshman Year of College)*

- Check grades.
- Set up regular study hours (5.3.2b).
- Reserve study group locations.

## **Late First Semester (Freshman Year of College)**

- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Prepare to re-apply for financial aid in January. (This is a yearly process!)
- If attending a community college: Check if the classes that you are taking will transfer to your destination four-year college in your intended major (not the community college that you are attending). Talk with an admissions counselor at the destination school to determine a transfer timeline.

