

Senior Year Time Line

SEPTEMBER:

- **Double-Check:** Meet with your Guidance Counselor in early fall to review college options and make sure that you are all set to graduate with all requirements being fulfilled. Verify graduation credits and college entrance requirements. The Guidance Office also has a bulletin board by the school office. Check it out frequently to see what new items have been posted.
- **College Deadlines:** Review your college choices and be aware of all college application and scholarship deadlines and requirements.
- **It's That Time:** ... to start requesting teacher and counselor recommendations – it's never too early to have these done. Please make sure your application has been sent to the college before sending a recommendation or transcript. If any paperwork goes to the college before your application, the college will toss it.
- **Apply NOW:** If you're thinking about applying for Early Action/Decision deadlines, prepare your application, because it's due soon!
- **Just Do It:** If you have taken the ACT or SAT test and are considering re-taking them, just do it. It will never hurt – and actually, it could mean extra money in scholarships if you bump the scores up enough for higher scores. Additionally, some colleges will take the best of each test section from different settings, so taking your exams again could be to your benefit.
- **Meet & Greet:** Meet with college representatives who visit NRCS. This is a great time to ask those longer questions you may not want to ask over the phone. Also, take advantage of any college fairs that are being held in the area.
- **Triple-Check:** Contact all colleges on your list or go online and triple-check all of your information. Make sure to gather all the information needed to complete your applications and scholarship paperwork. It's no fun to miss deadlines.
- **Military:** Check on Academy and ROTC deadlines. These are not flexible and may make or break your chances of getting in.
- **Go Visit:** Plan to visit colleges that interest you in person. Please plan for times that fit into your academic schedule.

OCTOBER:

- **Don't Forget:** Keep working on and completing those applications for early-decision colleges! Stay alert to college fairs in the area. Also keep an eye on your grades. They will be part of your transcript.

NOVEMBER:

- **Happy New Year!:** Or kind of ... Even though it's November, it's time to start thinking about the New Year. Begin to complete the applications with January deadlines. Remember most colleges want to have the applications in their hands by the deadline – don't mail them the day before.

DECEMBER:

- **FAFSA:** Check out last years FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) on the [FAFSA website](#). Use it as a practice form and see what you need in order to fill out the FAFSA. It will rarely ever change in detail. However, don't use it as your official FAFSA for your student. The new FAFSA comes out every year on January 1.
- **Stamp It or Submit It:** Whether you're turning in your application for college via mail or online make sure to get it in before the colleges go on Christmas break. Applications turned in after mid-December will most likely not be processed until after January 1.
- **Christmas:** Don't forget to sit back, relax, and enjoy the Christmas season with your family!!

JANUARY & FEBRUARY:

- **It's That Time:** Complete and submit the [Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#) (FAFSA) form as early as possible. Make sure you're aware of the due dates for the colleges you are applying to. Most schools have a March 1st, but some may be earlier – be alert.
- **Explore Financial Aid Opportunities:** Check out the Financial Aid & Scholarship section on the [Online Resources](#) page for a wide array of financial aid resources and websites. Somebody has to win the scholarships – why not you?
- **Keep Working:** Continue completing college applications, transcript and teacher recommendation requests and make sure you're aware of anything else the colleges need from you to complete their application process (new test scores, first semester senior grades, etc.).
- **Register Now:** Make sure you register for the [ACT](#) or [SAT](#) test if you have not done so yet. This is your last chance.
- **Check the Mailbox:** You may start receiving replies and acceptance letters from colleges during this time period.

MARCH – JUNE:

- **Road Trip:** Make sure to get on campus. Make final campus visits if needed.

- **Decision Time:** Once you know which college is the one you want to attend, send your confirmation and housing deposits. This will lock in your spot and in most circumstances give you priority in registering for classes. Also, be aware of the college's non-refundable deadline, in case you change your mind.
- **Be Courteous:** Notify colleges of your decision to attend or not. If you know you're not going to attend a specific college you've been accepted to, inform them. You may free up a spot for someone else. However, be sure you don't want to attend that college; you may not be able to get your spot back.
- **What's Up?:** Inform us of your plans.
- **Don't Forget:** The school has to submit a final transcript, even after you have been accepted. Don't lose focus of your grades.
- **Last, But Not Least:** Request your final transcript and verification of graduation be sent to the college you plan to attend. They need it to process your final high school paperwork.
- **Congratulations!** You've finished high school and are about to embark on an exciting new chapter in life. Good luck and have fun!