



Junior/Senior Timeline

Junior Year

January-June

- Begin searching for colleges that you may be interested in
- Start exploring different major options
- Attend the Mercer County Community College Fair
- Take the ACT or SAT at least once during your junior year
- Teacher Brag Sheets need to be handed to the teacher
- The counselor/Parent Brag sheet is due to your counselor before June 15th.

Senior Year

August/September

- Get started on your applications right away if you plan to apply through an Early Decision or Early Action program. Deadlines for early applications tend to fall in October or November.
- See your School Counselor
- Register Early for SAT I/SAT II <http://www.collegeboard.org>
- Finalize College list
- Finalize your college essays. Write essays that focus on your experiences and make you stand out from the crowd.
- Consider Early Action. this is a non-binding way to apply early to colleges.
- Organize a Folder for EACH College you are applying to.
- Update your "resume" -- your list of accomplishments, involvements, and work experiences - with your senior year activities. Your resume will help you complete your applications and essays.

October

- Take SAT I/SAT II/ACT
- Plan college visits & interviews
- Check for local college fairs
- Notify Your Counselor by filling out a transcript request form as to which colleges you are applying
- Send out your applications online or via mail
- Beware of early decision and early action deadlines
- Study Hard
- File FAFSA <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>

November

- Take SAT I/SAT II
- Send Early Action/Decision applications
- Notify Your Counselor by filling out a transcript request form as to which colleges you are applying to.
- Finish all Applications
- Check Deadlines: All applications with a January 1st deadline must have transcript release forms into guidance office by November 15th due to the winter break.

January

- Submit mid-year grade reports to counselors
- Take AT I/II

February

- Check/Apply for local private scholarships
- Check Deadlines for AP Test
- Contact your colleges and confirm that all necessary application materials have been received.

March

- Continue to explore colleges
- Don't get senioritis! Colleges want to see strong second half grades.
- Study Hard

April

- Review college responses and aid offers
- Make final decision & send in deposit by May 1st
- You should have received your FAFSA Acknowledgment/Student Aid Report
- Most admissions decisions and financial aid award letters arrive this month. Read everything you receive carefully, as some of it may require action on your part.
- Study Hard

May

- May 1st National Deposit Deadline: Make sure all deposit (tuition and residence hall) forms and fees are received by your college of choice.
- Check arrangement for Stafford Loan
- On the waiting list? Contact the admissions office and let them know of your continued interest in the college and update them on your spring semester grades and activities.

June

- Study for Final Exams
- Graduation
- Thank your parents/guardians!!!

Scholarships and Useful Websites

- www.mcts.edu - Click/hover on "Current Students", click on "Scholarship Information."
- www.hlghfivescholarships.com - Free SAT and ACT practice tests and scholarship.
- www.scholarships.com - Scholarship and college searches.
- www.fafsa.ed.gov - Official site for filing for financial aid (required to receive any financial aid of scholarships) - free application for filing the FAFSA.
- www.fastweb.com - Scholarship search - create a mailbox and receive updates and email notices links to other sources .
- www.ncaaclearinghouse.net - Must register if playing Division I or II college athletics to establish athletic eligibility.
- www.collegeanswer.com - Review of the financial aid process, review entire "going - to-college " process, self-assessments.
- www.collegeboard.com- SAT registration and test prep, college info, financial aid/scholarship search.
- www.finaid.org- Financial aid/scholarship search, scholarship scam alert, glossary of financial.
- www.number2.com - Free SAT prep.
- www.princetonreview.com - College search, SAT help, scholarship search, ratings, and personality quiz.
- www.freescholarships.com - Scholarship information, links to other useful websites, frequent e-mail updates on important topics.
- www.mapping-your-future.org - Career planning, tips for school selection, financial aid information, links to other sources, career information.
- www.tuitionfundingsources.com - Scholarships and grants.
- Remember that colleges have their own website (usually its name or initials followed by ".edu") that gives you important information about that particular institution including programs, admissions, applications, scholarships, e-mail address and so much more.