

Planning for College A Timeline for Juniors & Senior

Cheatham County Central
High School

It's time to start thinking about your future! We know that the college application process can be complicated and confusing. Please use the information below as a planning tool. Be sure to share it with a parent or someone who is invested in your future. And remember, if something doesn't make sense- just ask!
- CCCHS Counselors

JUNIOR YEAR- FALL

- Sign up for a rigorous academic schedule
 - We know this doesn't sound like fun, but taking harder classes in high school is one of the best ways to prepare you for college classes.
- Get involved in school activities- sports, clubs, student council...etc. Even better, get a leadership position in the activity of your choice. These look great on college resumes.
- Prepare for the ACT
 - Take ACT Prep or get an ACT study guide. There are lots of good study guides out there, but we recommend *The Real ACT Prep Guide* by ACT, Inc. or going to a practice ACT website. (TN Electronic Library has a good practice test)
 - If you don't want to buy a study guide, you can check one out at the school or local library.
- Start researching jobs and majors that interest you

JUNIOR YEAR- SPRING/SUMMER

- Take the ACT in February or March
 - CCCHS will give the ACT to all Juniors for free in March. You don't have to do anything for this one besides study. We will take care of the registration process.
 - When you decide to take the ACT again, you are responsible for registering for the test. You can register at **www.act.org**.
- Research colleges that interest you.
 - Make a list of colleges you'd like to apply to.
 - If you're not even sure where to start, check out- www.collegefortn.org
- Visit colleges
 - Contact the admissions office of the college you'd like to visit, and they will set up a tour for you.
 - CCCHS allows you 2 excused absences for college visits. You must bring a note from the school, saying you were there, or you will have an unexcused absence. Use these days wisely.
- Attend the spring information meeting at CCCHS sponsored by Advise TN
 - Our Advise TN counselor will begin helping you with post-secondary decisions

SENIOR YEAR- AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- Register for the September/October ACT if you are not satisfied with your scores
 - If you made below a 20 on your last test, we recommend that you re-take the ACT
- WORK ON TNPROMISE application—the deadline is Nov. 1
- Double-check your transcript to see if you have met all the graduation requirements
 - You can get a copy of your transcript in the Counseling Center, along with a list of your graduation requirements.
- Sign up for a rigorous academic schedule
 - We know you want your Senior year to be fun, but it can still be fun while you're taking harder classes. Believe us, colleges will notice!
- Start filling out the Common Application. Create an account online at www.commonapp.org
 - Most universities require the Common App for admission. To find out if you need to fill this out, check the websites of the schools you are applying to.
- Attend all informational sessions and class meetings provided by your counselors

SENIOR YEAR- OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

- DO YOUR FAFSA Application—This is how you get college money! The FAFSA opens October 1st and the deadline is in January for TNPromise FAFSA.
- Create the final list of colleges that you will apply to
 - We want you to apply to your dream college, but make sure you have a back-up
 - Use the checklist we made for you to keep track of your application process.
- Begin serious work on your college applications
- Get recommendation letters from teachers/counselors
 - Request these letters at least a month before they are due
 - Provide your teacher/counselor with your resume and any info that would help them write your recommendation letter
- Get someone to proofread your college essays
- Complete early admission college applications
- Request your transcripts to be sent to the colleges you are applying to
 - Fill out a records request form in the Counseling Center

SENIOR YEAR- DECEMBER

- Complete the final draft of your college essays. Get someone to proofread them.
- Complete the Common Application or any other college applications by Dec. 15
 - A lot of colleges have deadlines later than the 15th, but we want you to enjoy your Winter Break without worrying about deadlines.
- Check out the financial aid options at your colleges

SENIOR YEAR- SPRING

- Stay focused on your grades!
 - A lot of colleges will request 3rd quarter grades before making admission decisions, so keep those grades up
- For all those people who helped you with the admissions process- let them know where you got accepted
 - Send thank you notes
- If you get accepted to multiple schools, sit down with a parent/counselor to talk about your best option

SENIOR YEAR- APRIL/MAY

- Make a decision!
 - Accept or decline your admission offers by May 1st, which is National Candidate Reply Date. We don't want you to lose your spot!
- Tell the counselors which school you decided to attend so that we can mail your final transcript
- GRADUATE!!!
 - You finally made it! We are so proud of you! Good luck with all your future plans.