### Senior Year

**How to see your Counselor**

* To make an appointment, students should come to Guidance before/after school, or during lunch.
* Drop in visits are available during conference time, all lunches, and after school.

**Plan for the Year Ahead**

### ****Fall****

**Attend any and all local and regional college workshops and fairs**

* + C**OLLEGE VISITATIONS OUT OF STATE**  
    Greater Phoenix College Fair   
    Visit [www.nacacnet.org](http://www.nacacnet.org/EventsTraining/CollegeFairs/ncf/Fall/Pages/09FPho.aspx" \t "_blank) for more info!

**Pulling Your Applications Together**

* + Narrow your list of colleges to between 5 and 10 and review it with your counselor. Get an application and financial aid info from each. Visit as many as possible.
  + Make a master calendar and note:
    - Test dates, fees, and deadlines
    - College application due dates
    - Required financial aid applications and their deadlines
    - Recommendations, transcripts, and other necessary materials
    - Your high school's deadlines for application requests, such as your transcript
  + Ask for recommendations. Give each person your resume, a stamped, addressed envelope, and any required forms.
  + Write application essays and ask teachers, parents, and friends to read first drafts.

**Applying Early Action or Early Decision?**

* + November 1: For early admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications in early November. Send your SAT® scores at collegeboard.com.
  + Ask if your college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility

**Get Financial Aid Info**

* + Attend financial aid info events in your area.
  + Talk to your counselor about CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® and learn about it with Completing the PROFILE. By filling out one form, you can apply online for nonfederal financial aid from almost 400 colleges and scholarship programs. <http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>
  + Search for Scholarships, review scholarship books, and ask your counselor about local and state funding sources

### ****Winter****

**Application Details**

* + Most regular applications are due between January 1 and February 15. Keep copies of everything you send to colleges.
  + Have your high school send your transcript to colleges.
  + Contact colleges to make sure they've received all application materials.

**Financial Aid: Apply Early. Apply Right.**

* + You and your family should save this year's pay stubs to estimate income on aid forms that you'll file early next year.
  + Submit your [FAFSA](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/" \t "_blank) as soon after January 1 as possible. Men 18 or older must register for the [selective service](http://www.sss.gov/" \t "_blank) to receive federal financial aid.
  + Many priority financial aid deadlines fall in February. To get the most attractive award package, apply by the priority date. Keep copies of everything you send.

### ****Spring****

**When the Letters Start Rolling In**

* + You should get acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April.
  + Use Compare Your Aid Awards to compare awards from different colleges. Questions? Talk to financial aid officers. Not enough aid? Ask if other financing plans are available.
  + If you haven't already, visit your final college before accepting.

**May 1: Making Your Final Choice**

* + You must tell every college of your acceptance or rejection of offers of admission or financial aid by May 1. Send a deposit to the college you choose.
  + Wait-listed? If you will enroll if accepted, tell the admissions director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask if funds will be available if you're accepted.

### ****Summer****

Next Steps

* + Ask your high school to send a final transcript to your college.
  + Start preparing for the year ahead.

The time is NOW to talk to your counselor about plans for the next stage of your life. You will find that your counselor can help you with college or career information.

### Helpful Links

* [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org/" \t "_blank): Register for the ACT and learn not only about college, but career info too.
* [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/" \t "_blank): All athletes hoping to play a sport at a Division I or Division II school must register with the clearing house. This should be complete by the end of the Jr. year or the beginning of the Sr. year of high school.
* [Arizona State University](http://www.asu.edu/" \t "_blank)
* [University of Arizona](http://www.universityofarizona.edu/" \t "_blank)
* [Northern Arizona University](http://www.nau.edu/" \t "_blank)
* [www.collegeview.com](http://www.collegeview.com/" \t "_blank): College Search Site
* [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com/" \t "_blank): College Search Site
* [www.anycollege.com](http://www.anycollege.com/" \t "_blank): College Search Site
* [ASU Polytechnic University](http://www.east.asu.edu/" \t "_blank)
* [Mesa Community College](http://www.mc.maricopa.edu/" \t "_blank)
* [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com/" \t "_blank): Register for the SAT and learn about college info here at this very comprehensive site.
* [www.armedforcescareers.com](http://www.armedforcescareers.com/" \t "_blank): If you are interested in a career in the military, this is the site to visit.
* [ASU West University](http://www.west.asu.edu/" \t "_blank)
* [Rio Salado Community College](http://www.rio.maricopa.edu/" \t "_blank)
* [Chandler Gilbert Community College](http://www.cgc.maricopa.edu/" \t "_blank)
* [Scottsdale Community College](http://www.sc.maricopa.edu/" \t "_blank)
* [Gateway Community College](http://www.gc.maricopa.edu/" \t "_blank)