

TCHS

COLLEGE TIMELINE: 12TH GRADE

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

All Year

*Work hard all year—second-semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.

*Stay involved in after-school activities, and seek leadership roles if possible.

- Plan to attend the TCISD College Fair during the fall semester.
- Register with NCAA Clearinghouse if you are planning to play college sports.
- Register for ACT* or SAT* or SAT Subject* tests if necessary. (If you miss the first fall test date, your next opportunity may be too late to send scores to your college choices).
- Attend District Financial Aid Night with your parents.
- Complete senior forms in Naviance (Student Brag Sheet; Parent Brag Sheet; Résumé) to be used for recommendations. If you will need recommendations written for your applications, contact those teachers, counselors, or other individuals this month.
- Narrow college choices to a few schools. Your selection should include at least one that you feel will definitely accept you.
- If you are applying to any Texas Public University and most Two-Year colleges, complete the “Apply Texas” application at <https://www.applytexas.org/> A universal “Common Application” is also available for private colleges at <https://www.commonapp.org/Login>.
- Send for or download application materials/financial aid information if you have not already done so.
- Apply for any and all scholarships for which you qualify. Check Naviance Family Connection monthly for additional scholarship opportunities.
- If your college or scholarship applications require essays, GET STARTED. Choose an English teacher to help you critique your work.
- Talk with teachers and other individuals who know you well regarding recommendations.
- Check college catalogs and websites for deadline dates for application for admissions, housing, financial aid, required entrance exam (SAT* or ACT*) and acceptable financial aid form (FAFSA or Profile).
- Begin processing college application forms.

- If you are a candidate for early decision, file your application in time to meet that deadline. Also be sure to check the LAST acceptable test date for an early decision candidate.
- Continue preparation for SAT* or ACT* tests.
- Schedule college tours. Check your school calendar for dates when you are not in school other than holidays. Use these. Call or write ahead for an appointment. Observe TCISD attendance policy.
- Meet with college representatives when they visit your high school.
- Maintain good grades.

OCTOBER

- The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) or College Scholarship Service Profile must be filed October 1st or later (see <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>)
- Continue processing application and recommendation forms to guidance counselors and teachers for completion of their sections. (Teachers and counselors are asked to write numerous recommendations – always allow at least three weeks for them to complete recommendations.) Follow your campus counseling office procedure.
- Arrange for transcripts and recommendations to be sent to colleges through Naviance Family Connection.
- Continue to fill out application forms. On-line applications are preferable for most colleges. Be sure to follow the directions. Many colleges require essay responses. Allow yourself ample time to do a good job. Use spelling and grammar software to check your essay.
- Meet application deadlines for early decision or early action (usually November 1), housing, scholarships, or financial aid as stated by each college. CAUTION: these deadlines may vary by college or university.
- Take/retake the SAT* or ACT*, if necessary.
- Find out the SAT Subject Tests* requirements of your college choices. If required, register to take SAT* subject tests on a date when you will NOT be taking the SAT*. You are not permitted to take the SAT* and SAT Subject Tests* on the same date.
- Continue to submit college application forms, even if you have submitted an early decision or early action application.

NOVEMBER

- Continue to study hard because your first semester senior year grades are very important. Most colleges request a copy of your 1st semester senior grades for admission consideration.
- Continue to complete college applications for admissions. Follow up on letters of recommendation. Request transcripts as needed. Copy ALL forms before you mail them. Mail to meet deadlines as stated by colleges and universities.
- Take/retake ACT*, SAT* or SAT Subject Tests* if necessary.
- All recommendations that have deadlines through January 15 must be submitted to the counselor by December 1.

DECEMBER

- Look back over your timeline to be sure you have completed each step in the college admissions process.
- Most application(s) should be submitted before January first.
- Request that SAT* or ACT* scores be sent to all colleges to which you have applied. These scores may be ordered by telephone or on the ACT* or College Board websites.
- Expect notification of Early Decision acceptance or deferral by December 15.
- Take the SAT Subject Tests* that are required by the colleges of your choice. (You signed up for these in October.)
- Ask your parents to begin gathering their financial information.

JANUARY

- Research scholarships and loans.
- If required, complete and return any mid-year reports to colleges which request them. Request a mid-year transcript through Naviance Family Connection.

FEBRUARY

- Keep your grades up . . . finish strong . . . remember that you will be accepted to college “Pending the successful completion of your 12th grade course work.”
- Check deadline dates for financial aid/scholarship grants. Many forms are due March 1.

MARCH

- Register for AP tests as appropriate.

APRIL

- Look for acceptance notices. April 1st is the most popular date for colleges to notify students.
- Carefully choose your college and write the college a letter of acceptance, which the college should receive before May 1.
- Write other colleges to decline their acceptance (also before May 1).
- If you are wait-listed and wish to be kept in consideration, be sure to advise the college in writing.
- If all colleges send rejections, don't panic! There are several alternatives. See your counselor immediately to explore other possibilities.
- Finalize plans for housing, financial aid, and/or scholarships.
- Make any deposit required by the institution you plan to attend. May 1st is the generally accepted nationwide deadline for deposits for fall term. Be sure to check with your college for their exact requirements.

MAY

- Make final choice of college or university, if you have not already done so. Complete all details concerning college admissions.
- Notify your counselor of your final college choice and whether you have been awarded any scholarships (academic, athletic, artistic, dramatic, or musical— NOT LOANS.)
- Complete Graduation Survey in Naviance.
- Complete SENIOR EXIT FORM indicating colleges applied to, scholarships and grants awarded, and where you want your final transcript to be sent.
- Take AP test(s) as previously decided.
- Attend graduation ceremonies and celebrate. HAVE A HAPPY GRADUATION!

June

- When you receive your Advanced Placement Test grades, if you have not already requested that the scores be sent to the college that you will be attending, request the College Entrance Examination Board to do so.
- Participate in the orientation program of the college you will attend. This may have occurred in the spring, during the summer or just prior to the fall term.
- Consider taking College Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams when you get to college.

*Students with disabilities—please contact your counselor at least 8 weeks prior to registration for any college entrance exam to discuss any accommodations for testing based on ARD committee recommendations.