

# MY COLLEGE TIMELINE SENIOR YEAR

College is all post-secondary education including certificate programs, trade schools, community colleges, and four year colleges and universities.

## SUMMER FALL

- Get ready to apply- narrow down your college list and gather application materials. Work on admissions essays and talk to adults who can write letters of reference or recommendation.
- Look up deadlines- don't miss priority deadlines for your college's admissions or financial aid departments.
- Apply- many colleges have early app deadlines in October, November, or December.
- Get an estimate of what the colleges on your final list will actually cost. The FAFSA Forecaster on FAFSA.GOV can give you an idea of what you may potentially receive from federal funding.
- Create a resume- a record of your academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, and work experiences since you started high school. Keep this updated as new experiences come about. This will be helpful for college, scholarships and job applications.
- Submit the FAFSA and Apply for scholarships
- Complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid. You can submit the FAFSA after October 1st- the earlier the better as some funds are first come first served. Reach out to your local high school counselor or any college financial aid department for help with financial questions.

## WINTER SPRING

- Confirm that materials have been received by colleges, including letters of recommendations, official scores, transcripts, and any other supporting documents.
- Continue to apply for scholarships. Make sure you understand and follow the application requirements and apply by the deadline. Focus on local applications, then state and national opportunities.
- Compare your financial aid awards. You will receive award letters from each college. Make side-by-side comparisons. Don't hesitate to call college financial aid departments and ask for additional funds.
- Select a financial aid package by the deadline. Financial aid is limited and if you don't accept on time the funds may go to another student. Complete all paperwork.
- May 1st is decision time. Colleges expect students to inform them of their plans to enroll at this time. Each college has different procedures to secure your spot which may include sending an acceptance letter, an enrollment fee, accepting financial awards, securing housing for the fall, and/or signing up for orientation sessions. Be sure to be in contact with your college to clarify that all requirements are met.



OCEANA COLLEGE ACCESS NETWORK