

# SENIOR PRE-COLLEGE CALENDAR AND CHECKLIST

## August

- Review your senior course schedule, graduation requirements and career plans with your school counselor
- Visit college campus and attend college fairs
- Meet with college admission representatives at BHS
- Narrow down your college list to three to five schools (10 at the most)
- Start developing a financial aid plan for college
- Work on your Brag Sheet and Student Resume to assist counselors and teachers in writing your letter of recommendation

## September

- Meet with college representatives who visit BHS
- Meet with military recruiters who visit BHS
- Make a list of test dates, fees, registration deadline and deadlines for college admissions and financial aid applications.
- Ask teachers, your school counselor and perhaps others to write your letter of recommendation
- Take SAT/ACT and/or SAT II's, if necessary, at least six weeks before your college admission deadlines for scores to be submitted to colleges
- Work on your college admission applications and essays and check all deadlines
- Work on your Brag Sheet and Student Resume to assist counselors and teachers in writing your letter of recommendation

## October

- Take the SAT/ACT and/or SAT II's exam if necessary
- Work on your college admission applications and essays
- Attend College Fairs
- Complete college applications for early admission and early decision college deadlines
- Visit your top college choices. Interview some students, faculty and staff, if possible.
- Find out which financial aid applications your college choices require and when the forms are due.
- Some private universities may require that you register for CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE at this time. (This registration will determine your qualification for private school aid).
- Finalize portfolios, audition tapes, writing samples, or other evidence of talent, if required.
- Work on your Brag Sheet and Student Resume to assist counselors and teachers in writing your letter of recommendation

## November

- Attend college fairs and financial aid nights
- Continue to work on college applications and essays
- Follow up with those who are writing letter of recommendations to make sure they were sent.
- Take SAT/ACT or SAT II's, if necessary

## December

- Finalize your admission applications.
- Research and apply for scholarships
- Start to look at the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). It's available online at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov). **DO NOT COMPLETE this application until after January 1st.** If your parents or guardians claim you as a dependent for tax purposes, you will need their help in completing the FAFSA. **\*\* TIP FOR PARENTS:** Save your year-end payroll stub if it shows your earnings for the year. You may need it for financial aid eligibility reviews by schools.
- Advanced Placement (AP) exam registration begins this month. Listen for announcements from the BHS Counseling Office

## January

- Submit your FAFSA to the processor as soon after January 1st. **DO NOT SUBMIT BEFORE JANUARY 1.** You can complete the form online at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov).
- On January 15th, start the scholarship application for the Frederick County Community Foundation (DUE February 15th) at [www.cffredco.org](http://www.cffredco.org).
- Keep copies of all the forms you submit
- TIP FOR PARENTS:** It's helpful to get your income tax returns prepared early- schools may request them to prove eligibility for financial aid
- Rank your preferred colleges/universities.
- Register for AP exams

## February

- Complete the Community Foundation scholarship application online at [www.cffredco.org/](http://www.cffredco.org/)
- Complete your FAFSA online
- Rank your finalized list of colleges
- Register for AP exams

## March

- Submit tax forms to the financial aid office, if requested. Find out what outstanding items need to be completed for the financial aid office
- Narrow your college choices and make campus visits, if necessary
- Look for your online Student Aid Report (SAR). This contains federal financial aid information
- Register for AP exams

## April

- Acceptance letters are headed your way as are financial aid award letters
- Compare financial aid awards you receive
- Check with the college you've chosen about the details of signing and returning financial aid award letters
- Make your final school decision and mail any deposits required
- Watch for important deadline (housing, financial aid etc... ) at your chosen college

## May

- Take your AP exams
- Be aware of any summer orientation sessions that you must attend at the school in which you will enroll and make plans accordingly
- Finalize any summer job plans and make a plan for saving a portion of your summer earnings
- Prepare a realistic student budget using your college costs, taking into consideration the cost of books, supplies and other personal expenses.
- Complete mandatory senior surveys and inform the Counseling Office of where you will enroll in the fall and document all of the scholarships you have been offered and awarded.

## June

- Plan for college orientation, transportation and housing
- Follow-up with financial aid office to ensure that all paperwork is complete

## July

- Finalize plans for school, meet your new roommate and buy dorm room supplies, if necessary
- Contact the Maryland Higher Education Commission if you have any questions about funding your education. Call 1-800-974-1024 or 410-260-4565 or visit [www.mhec.state.md.us](http://www.mhec.state.md.us)