



Senior Year College Road Map



August

Sign up for text alerts.

Sign up for free college-planning reminders at cfwv.com.

Research and apply for scholarships.

There are thousands of scholarships available – and often, few students apply! Don't leave money on the table. Apply for as many scholarships as possible. Get started at cfwv.com.

Register and study for the ACT/SAT.

You probably already took the SAT your junior year. But if your score wasn't as high as you'd like, you can take it again or try the ACT instead. Map out a plan and start studying.



September

Plan your college visits.

It's crunch time – you need to decide on a college soon! Schedule visits to any campus you're still considering and reach out to their admissions offices for more info.

Meet with your high school counselor.

Let your counselor know about the colleges that you are considering and ask for advice. If you're unable to pay college application fees, ask how to apply for a fee waiver.



October

Submit at least two college applications.

Students who apply to more than one school are more likely to attend college and succeed. Researchers recommend applying to at least four colleges. Students who apply early are also more likely to qualify for scholarships.

Complete the FAFSA.

The FAFSA is *the* most important financial aid form you will complete. By filling out this one form, you'll be considered for many different sources of financial aid. Complete it early to make sure you're at the top of the list!



November through January

Weigh the pros and cons.

Once you've submitted your college applications and your FAFSA, you'll start getting lots of information about college and financial aid opportunities. Begin narrowing your options by making a list of the pros and cons for each college or program to which you've been admitted.



February

Make a decision.

Work with the admissions office of your first-choice college to complete your enrollment paperwork. Call the financial aid office at the college and work with them to make sure you are able to cover the costs of attending this school. You should also find out the absolute latest date that you could enroll at your second- and third-choice colleges. If you change your mind about your first-choice, it's important to know what options remain.

Read College 101.

Ask your counselor for a copy of CFWV's College 101 guide or visit cfwv.com and click on the "college student" link to download a copy. Begin following the steps outlined in the guide to enroll in college, register for housing, and prepare for life on campus.



March

Decide on housing.

Are you going to live on campus, rent a place off-campus, or commute? Does your college have rules about where you can live your first year? Talk with your admissions counselor about your housing options. Find out how to register for housing if you're planning on staying on campus.

Register for orientation.

If you haven't already, register for a summer orientation session. During orientation, you'll learn all about your new school, register for classes, and take care of final details.



April - August

Stay on track – and in touch!

Over the summer, your college will send you emails with important info. Be sure to check your email often and follow their instructions. If you need help, ask questions!