

12TH Grade College Planning Calendar

Financial Aid & Scholarships

September	• Make sure you have all institutional financial aid applications. Write, phone, or use the Internet to request missing information. • Check on financial aid application deadlines for the schools to which you plan to apply. They will vary and it is essential to meet all deadlines! • Meet with your guidance counselor to be sure your list includes colleges appropriate to your academic and personal record. Apply to colleges for which you meet scholarship eligibility. • Complete your recommendation information form and return it to the guidance office. • Most scholarship applications will require at least one recommendation. Ask the appropriate people to write on your behalf. At least two weeks before the due date, ask your counselor and teachers, employers, or coaches to write letters of recommendation. Provide recommendation forms, any special instructions and stamped, addressed business envelope to the people writing your recommendation. Be thoughtful! Write thank-you notes to those who write recommendations and keep them informed of your decisions. • Plan visits to colleges and set up interviews, if needed (if you didn't visit last year or during the summer or if you want to return to a campus for a second time). Again, make the financial aid office one of your stops. • Apply for scholarships as early as possible. Remember, the little things count.
October	• Keep and monitor one e-mail address for college applications. Avoid using cute or rude addresses. • Retain copies of all applications. • Watch announcements for scholarship opportunities.
November	• Keep your grades up. Many scholarship applications require a transcript that includes first semester grades. • If you plan to file a paper form, obtain a paper FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) by downloading from www.fafsa.ed.gov (usually available the end of Nov. or beginning of Dec.). If you plan to apply on-line, register for a PIN for student and at least one parent at www.pin.ed.gov. Check to see if the colleges to which you are applying require any other financial form. Register for the CSS Profile, if required, and obtain the college's own financial aid forms, if available. • Carefully read all mailings from the college financial aid office.
December	• Read the information and instructions for completing the FAFSA,, that your child will bring home in early December. Call the guidance counselor or college financial aid office with questions. Don't guess and don't procrastinate.
January	• Parents and students, complete your income tax forms as soon as possible. You will need those figures to fill out the FAFSA. Complete and submit your FAFSA as quickly as possible after January 1. Check to make sure that you complete any other financial aid forms required by colleges to which you have applied. • If you cannot file your taxes in January, you can estimate the figures and update your information after you have filed. This is much better than waiting, because some money is limited. • Keep a copy of your FAFSA. • Attend Financial Aid Night.
February	• Remember to monitor your applications to be sure that any additional materials requested are sent and received on time and that they are complete. Stay on top of things and don't procrastinate. • If you need help with your FAFSA, attend College Goal Sunday, usually the second Sunday in February, or call the Financial Aid Office of the college you have applied to or Southern State

	(393-3431). • Make or print a copy of your FAFSA. • If you complete a paper FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within two to four weeks. If you complete an online FAFSA, you will receive the SAR within 72 hours. Review the SAR carefully and check for any inaccuracies. If necessary, correct any items on the SAR and return it to the FAFSA processor. • If more than four weeks have passed after sending in a paper FAFSA or one week after filing online and you have not received an acknowledgement, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (319) 337-5665 or on-line using your PIN. To identify you, they will need your name, Social Security number, address, and date of birth exactly as it was written on your FAFSA. • Continue to complete scholarship applications, well in advance of posted deadlines. You may be eligible for more scholarships than you think, so apply for as many as you are eligible.
March	• Continue to monitor your financial aid status.
April	• Review your financial aid award letters. Be sure to compare financial aid packages in your decision-making process. If you are positive you will not enroll at one or more of the colleges that accepted you, notify them that you have selected another college. If you know which college you will attend, send your tuition deposit and follow all other instructions for admitted students. You must decide which offer of admission and financial aid to accept by May 1 (postmark date). This is also the deadline to get a 100% refund of any deposits you have paid.
May	• By May 1, decide on the one college that you will attend. Send in your tuition deposit, if required, by the deadline, to the college you will attend. Notify the others colleges that accepted you that you have selected another college. • Complete all required paperwork for your final choice.
June	• Notify the college of any private scholarships or grants you will be receiving. • Know when the payment for tuition, room and board, meal plans, etc., is due. If necessary, ask the financial aid office about a possible payment plan that will allow for you to pay in installments.