

College Preparation and Readiness Calendar for 12th Grade Students and Foster Parents/Caregivers

September

- Start a calendar with all test names, registration dates, college admissions and financial aid deadlines.
- Start a folder to file all of your correspondence with colleges.
- If applying early decision, check with admissions office for application deadlines.
- Sign up for October or November ACT and/or SAT I and SAT II tests.
- Stay involved in clubs and extra-curricular activities, and take a leadership role.
- Choose top 5 colleges and request applications.
- Sign up for a mentor through the Foster Care to College Mentor Program.
- Apply for scholarships

October

- Request letters of recommendation.
- Read all of the information you receive from your preferred colleges.
- Look and apply for scholarship opportunities.
- Consider possible college majors, and make sure your choice schools offer those programs.
- Ask college about financial aid forms.
- Ask teachers, counselors, and others to help you with your personal essay.

November

- Get financial aid applications from colleges.
- Send high school transcripts to colleges
- Take SAT I, SAT II, and/or ACT exams.
- If necessary, register to retake SAT and/or ACT in December or January.
- Submit WA State school applications, if due.
- Apply for scholarships.

December

- Get a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from your high school, college, or www.fafsa.ed.gov. Begin working on it. Do not send it in before January 1.
- Save December pay stubs to complete FAFSA.
- Mail admissions applications, if due.
- If you're completing the FAFSA online, make sure to request a Personal ID Number (PIN) from the website.

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January

- Submit FAFSA January 1, or soon after.
- If due, mail admissions applications and/or make sure they've been received.
- Make sure all admission applications are complete.
- Keep copies of all forms you mail.
- Mail end-of-semester transcripts to colleges.

February

- Make sure your FAFSA has been received. Call 800-433-3243.
- When you get your Student Aid Report (SAR), make sure your colleges of choice are listed.
- If your SAR asks for additional information, or if you need to make a correction, do so ASAP.

March - May

- Contact financial aid offices to make sure your application is complete.
- If you're not admitted to any of your choice colleges, see your school counselor for guidance.
- Review financial aid awards from colleges.
- Decide which school to attend and notify them by May 1.
- Apply for on- or off-campus housing.
- Respond to all letters from your college of choice by due date.

June - August

- Finalize summer school, job, or volunteer plans.
- Double-check your campus housing arrangements.
- Participate in freshman orientation programs.
- Take any required placement tests.
- Save money for college expenses.
- HAVE FUN!