



COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR SENIOR YEAR

August/September

- Finalize your college choices- reduce your list to five to eight colleges and make sure they still satisfy your requirements. Add or remove colleges from your list as necessary. Keep your options open and consider all possibilities. Keep some "safety" schools on your list.
- Check your transcripts to make sure you have all the required classes for graduation, diploma type, Millennium Scholarship eligibility AND for admission to the college(s) you are applying to. Find out from those colleges whether or not they require an official high school transcript at the time of application. You can request official transcripts from ScribOrder: <https://washoeschoolsnv.scriborder.com/>.
- Collect application materials from each college and **keep track of all due dates and deadlines!**
- Analyze each application's instructions to see what information is required (e.g. test scores, essays, recommendations, application forms, etc.)
- If you are applying to more than one college, rank your preferences by important characteristics (e.g. major, location, cost, etc.)
- Register to take (or re-take) the SAT (August/October/November) and/or ACT (September/October) and the Subject Tests if applicable. Plan to take these tests before you must submit scores to colleges (scores are received by colleges about 3-4 weeks after the test date). *Register early and make sure you indicate which colleges you want to receive your test scores at the time of registration! Colleges must receive your official test scores directly from the testing agency (either the CollegeBoard or the ACT).*
- If planning to apply Early Decision or Early Action, **find out application deadlines** (usually between October/November) and if the college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility (and what forms you will need to file). Remember to request your official transcript be sent to the college if required: <https://washoeschoolsnv.scriborder.com/>.
- Give any recommendation forms to the appropriate teachers/counselor with stamped, college-addressed envelopes (if mailing) making certain that your portion of the forms are filled out completely and accurately.
- Find out from colleges exactly what forms are required for financial aid and their deadlines
- Research scholarship opportunities (check resources on the GHS College & Career Center website). Discuss with your family how you will finance your college education. Be aware of deadlines! Also look for special federal, state, and local programs from which you may be able to receive aid.
- If you are an athlete and plan to participate in Division I, II, or III athletic programs in college, you should have already registered with the NCAA Clearinghouse at www.eligibilitycenter.org. If you have not, do so immediately! Check all requirements and make sure you will have all the specific classes (a list of accepted Galena classes is online on the above website) needed for Division I and/or Division II eligibility. REMEMBER: SAT/ACT test scores must be sent to the NCAA directly from the testing agencies (NCAA code is 9999).

October

- Take care of college application basics: prepare your essays (keep copies); contact teachers/counselor for recommendations (give them at least two weeks to write); and do not miss any deadlines! Keep a file of deadlines and required admission items for each school!
- Remember: When you ask for recommendations, provide the recommender with an addressed and stamped return envelope (if mailing) plus the appropriate college forms and an outline of your academic record and extracurricular activities, etc. A resume or "brag sheet" is extremely helpful!
- Visit any of your college choices that you have not already seen.
- Attend any district and school sponsored college fairs and college nights (WCSD College Fair is tentatively scheduled for November 5th)
- Continue researching and applying for scholarships!!

November

- Complete and submit all applications. If not applying online, be sure to mail on time. Do not forget the application fee!
- UC/CSU application deadline is November 30th!
- Apply for student housing (if planning to live on-campus) as soon as the university/college will allow!
- If attending a community college (like TMCC), now is the time to start the application process: 1) apply online; 2) take required placement tests (e.g. the Accuplacer); 3) attend a new student orientation and academic advisement workshop; 4) register for classes; 5) pay for classes. Also review financial aid and scholarship opportunities at the community college through their financial aid office.
- Get your FSA ID (<https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>) so you and your parent can start your FAFSA application when it becomes available in December! The FAFSA is the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and is required to apply for financial aid (grants, loans, etc.) from the federal government. Many colleges/universities also use the FAFSA to determine financial aid awards.
- Continue researching and applying for scholarships!!

December

- January 1st is the typical deadline for application to some selective colleges (others have deadlines later in January or February).

- Review the following with your parent to help you prepare for completing the FAFSA: <https://studentaid.gov/apply-for-aid/fafsa/filling-out>. Start to gather your and your parent(s) financial/tax records!
- Contact the financial aid office at each college to see if there are any additional financial aid forms required in addition to the FAFSA (e.g. the Profile). Do NOT wait until you find out if you have been accepted to apply for financial aid! You will need to submit all required financial aid forms even if you have not been notified of your acceptance to the college(s) to which you applied.
- Continue researching and applying for scholarships!!

January

- Submit the FAFSA online as soon as possible (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>). Attend any of the WCS D FAFSA Nights in January/February for assistance! Check with all financial aid offices about any other financial aid options and when to file other required financial aid applications or forms.
- Request that your official high school transcript be sent to colleges applied too (if requested): <https://washoeschoolsnv.scribborder.com/>
- Contact the admissions office of the college(s) to which you have applied to make sure your application has been received and that they have all the required forms and paperwork.
- Males between the ages of 18-25 years old must register with the Selective Service (<https://www.sss.gov/register/who-needs-to-register/>)
- Continue researching and applying for scholarships!!

February

- If you filed your FAFSA online, you should receive a Student Aid Report (SAR) via email within 3-5 days. If corrections are needed, correct and return it to the FAFSA processor promptly.
- Contact the financial aid office of the college(s) to which you applied to make sure your information has been received and they have all the required paperwork they need.
- If you have not received an acceptance notification from any college to which you applied, contact the admissions office to find out the status of your application and the notification period for acceptances/denials.
- Continue researching and applying for scholarships!!

March/April

- Look for admission notifications via mail or email
- Carefully review and compare financial aid award packages (and scholarship offers) from colleges. Call, email or write the college financial aid office if you have any questions. Do not just look at how much aid you are offered- review how much of your *need* is covered, and the type of aid and repayment terms (if applicable). If you do not receive any (or enough) financial aid, ask about any other financing options.
- If you are accepted by more than one college, decide which one is best for you- you may be required to send a non-refundable deposit! May 1st is typically the deadline for the Statement of Intent to Register. Notify all other colleges of your decision- be fair to the colleges and to other students who may be on their wait list.
- Continue researching and applying for scholarships!!

May

- If “wait listed” by your first-choice college, call, visit or write to the admissions director to state your intention and ask how to strengthen your application. If you’ll need financial aid to attend that “wait list” college, find out if funds will be available if you are accepted.
- Send the required deposit to the college of your choice. If you have been offered financial aid from the college you selected, make sure you accept the offer as instructed by your award letter. Finalize all elements of your financial aid package (e.g. loan applications, etc). Find out the amount and the “due dates” for tuition and room/board fees. Contact the financial aid office if you have any questions!
- Find out from the college what else you must do, if anything, to establish and maintain your financial aid eligibility.
- If you have received financial aid from other colleges, make sure you let them know you will not be attending. **And remember, you must reapply for financial aid every year.**
- Take AP exams if applicable (remember to research the AP credit policy at your selected college for passing AP scores!)
- Continue researching and applying for scholarships!!

June/Summer

- Remember to request your final official high school transcript be sent to your college: <https://washoeschoolsnv.scribborder.com/>
- Evaluate whether your family’s health insurance coverage is sufficient for your needs while you are attending college. Determine if you need to research student health insurance.
- Participate in any summer orientation programs for incoming freshman
- Continue researching and applying for scholarships!!

