

# The Path to College Timeline

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With Added Material from the IHS Counseling Department

## GRADE 11

### EARLY FALL

- Research federal, state, and private scholarships. Find out what awards students in your school and community are receiving.
- Update your student planner to include completed 10th grade classes and upcoming 11th grade classes. Your coursework should include advanced math, physics, social studies, and English. Maintain A's and B's. Your Nevada Millennium Scholarship depends on it.
- Remember, the Millennium Scholarship is your financial passport to Nevada's colleges and universities.
- Nevada's colleges and universities offer courses for dual credit. That means when you take a recognized college course you receive both high school and college credit. Talk to your counselor to about enrolling in Dual Credit courses at TMCC, SNC, or WNC.
- Consider taking AP (Advanced Placement) classes.

### LATE FALL/WINTER

- Schedule the Junior Interview with your counselor.
- Prepare for the ACT or SAT by reviewing books with testing tips and sample questions. These can be found in bookstores, libraries, and schools, or accessed on the Internet. Attend a workshop on how to prepare for the exam. Financial aid may be available for some workshops and test fees. Find more information about these tests by visiting their websites at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (ACT) and [www.sat.collegeboard.org/home](http://www.sat.collegeboard.org/home) (SAT).
- Attend college and vocational fairs and sessions with college representatives at your school to get more information. All Nevada colleges and universities have programs for visiting high school students.

### SPRING

- Take your college entrance exams (ACT or SAT) in the spring or summer. You will get the results back in time to see if you need to retake the test in the fall of your senior year. Register for exams one or more months in advance, or sooner. Add test scores to your student planner when received.
- Create a list of potential institutions that you would like to attend. Send letters or emails requesting information and evaluate the materials with your parents.
- Make an appointment to attend a campus tour.
- Schedule an appointment with a college financial aid counselor to learn more about financial aid opportunities. Be sure to bring your parents or family members, their participation is important and everyone will gain very valuable information.
- Parents, make sure your child takes any required college admissions tests and submits all admissions, financial aid, and any campus housing paperwork on time. It is crucial that you are aware of the submission deadlines — They vary among schools and are subject to change.

## **GRADE 12**

### **EARLY AUGUST:**

- Continue to visit and obtain information on the colleges or universities that you have included on your potential list.
- Continue the application process. You and your family should meet with your guidance counselor to become familiar with the admission and financial aid processes. Some universities and colleges have fall deadlines while others have spring deadlines.
- Review transcripts with your guidance counselor to ensure that they are accurate and you are meeting all of your college preparatory and Nevada Millennium Scholarship requirements. Review your college plans and evaluate them in light of your test scores and junior year grades.
- Register for the ACT or SAT if you either did not take the test last year, or if you have decided to retake the test.
- Update your student planner to include completed 11th grade classes and upcoming 12th grade classes.
- Keep these dates in your student planner: the UNLV Priority Application and Scholarship Deadline is November 1st and the UNR Priority Application and Scholarship Deadline is February 1st.
- Setting up a calendar with all the various tasks and deadlines associated with the application process will be very helpful to submit paperwork on time. Set aside plenty of time to draft, edit, and re-write application essays.

### **EARLY OCTOBER:**

- Work with your parents to complete the FAFSA on or as soon after October 1 as possible. Once you complete your FAFSA, you should receive the Student Aid Report (SAR) from the financial aid processor. If you provide a valid e-mail address on your FAFSA, you will receive an email within 3 to 5 days with instructions on how to access an online copy of your SAR. If you do not provide a valid email address, your SAR will be mailed to you via postal mail within 7 to 10 days. If you have not received your SAR within the appropriate timeline, check your status online at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), or call 1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243).
- Keep track of all application deadlines and file yours accordingly. If you want to live on campus, complete a housing/meal plan application.
- UNLV Priority Application and Scholarship Deadline is November 1st.

### **JANUARY:**

- Request that your high school send the transcript of the first semester of your senior year to the colleges where you have applied.

### **FEBRUARY/MARCH:**

- Make sure that all application materials are sent and received on time.
- Review your SAR for accuracy. If necessary, correct any inaccurate items on your SAR on the website [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov). If you filed a FAFSA online, you must make your corrections online. If you filed a paper FAFSA, you may make your corrections online or on your paper SAR and mail it to the federal processor. For electronic corrections, you will receive an email notification that your corrections are processed within 3 to 5 days. In order for colleges to receive your SAR information, you should list them on your FAFSA. You may add colleges after your FAFSA is processed by making a correction. Even if your SAR says you are not eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant, you should list all prospective colleges on your FAFSA because the college may be able to offer you other aid based on the information in that report. APRIL:
- Review your financial aid award letters with your parents. Be sure that you understand the terms and conditions that apply to each type of aid offered, as well as how much of your educational expenses the aid will be covering. Many institutions send financial aid award notifications electronically; it helps to know what to expect from your chosen college.

- Review all acceptance letters. Decide on where you will attend and send in your tuition deposit. If you are unable to cover the tuition deposit, contact the financial aid or admissions office to inquire about deposit waivers or payment plans. Notify all other institutions in writing that you have selected another school by May 1st. Other applicants will be hoping to receive your spot.
- If you are on a college waiting list, notify the admissions office that you are still interested.

**MAY:**

- Parents, you should devise a budget with your child and determine how much will be covered by financial aid, how much you will provide, and how much your child will contribute by working and/or borrowing.

**JUNE:**

- Request that your high school send a copy of your final transcripts to the college you will attend. Notify the college of any private grants or scholarships you will receive, as this may affect your other financial aid awards.
- Find out when payment for tuition, room, board, etc., will be due. Be sure that you understand how financial aid will be disbursed and whether you can defer bill payments until the funds are available.

**JULY/AUGUST:**

- Look for information from your new college about housing, orientation, course selection, etc.
- If you are attending a Nevada college or university, you will receive a Millennium Scholarship award notification. Your notification comes from the Nevada Treasurer's Office and will include instructions on how to complete your Letter of Acknowledgement. This step must be completed before your college can process your Millennium Award. Once this is done, verify that the Millennium Scholarship appears on your financial aid award letter. If it does not, you should contact your campus financial aid office.
- Celebrate and begin getting ready for college. Pack and look forward to an exciting and rewarding experience!