

Senior Year - "To-Do List"

September - December

- Register to retake the SAT and/or ACT, if necessary.** You can take these tests as many times as you want through the December testing date in your senior year. You should take these exams at least six weeks before your earliest college admissions.
- Request letters of recommendation.** Obtain letters from teachers, coaches, and other adults who are familiar with your accomplishments.
- Meet with your school counselor.** Review your final list of colleges.
- Make sure you have all the applications.** Have the required forms for financial aid and admission, and make a list of deadlines.
- File early decision applications.** Now is the time to file if you have made a decision.
- Have official test scores sent.** Make sure the testing agency sends your official test scores to the colleges on your short list. Complete and submit your college applications.
- Fill out your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>).** State Deadline for Montana - December 1, 2016. Check with the college(s) you are interested in attending. You may also want to ask your college about its definition of an application deadline - whether it is the date the college receives your FAFSA, or the date your FAFSA is processed.
- Students will be able to submit a FAFSA® earlier.** Students will be able to file a 2017-18 FAFSA as early as **Oct. 1, 2016**, rather than beginning on Jan. 1, 2017. The earlier submission date will be a permanent change, enabling students to complete and submit a FAFSA as early as October 1 every year.
- Students will use earlier income information.** Beginning with the 2017-18 FAFSA, students will be required to report income information from an earlier tax year. For example, on the 2017-18 FAFSA, students (and parents, as appropriate) will report their 2015 income information, rather than their 2016 income information.
- Be on the lookout for your Student Aid Report (SAR).** After completing the FAFSA, you will be receiving the SAR. Now's your chance to make any corrections, if needed.

January

- Request grade reports/transcripts.** Have your school send your grade reports and/or transcript to the colleges where you applied.
- Contact the colleges.** Confirm that all application materials (transcripts, recommendations, and financial aid forms) have been received.

February

- Finish scholarship applications.** Now is the time to complete any outstanding scholarship applications.

April

- Review documents.** Review all acceptances and compare financial aid packages.

May

- Decide which college you will attend.** By May 1st, you should decide on a college. Notify other prospective colleges that you have selected another school.
- Talk to the admissions staff.** If your first choice college placed you on a waiting list, you should let the admissions staff know that you are still interested in attending.

June

- Talk to your counselor.** Ask your counselor to forward your final transcript to the college.
- Contact the college.** Determine when fees are due for tuition and room and board.