



# Nuts and Bolts of Your Senior Year



Planning ahead is a critical step in preparing for your post-secondary future. Below is a timeline for students in their Senior Year of high school.

## Fall Semester Overview

- Keep studying! Finish high school with pride in yourself and your note-worthy accomplishments.
- Attend an individual Senior Conference with your counselor for help with graduation and post-secondary planning.
- Sign up for Remind to receive notifications and announcements from your counselor.
- Access and utilize resources posted in the Counseling Center.
- Save your money! It's a good idea to start planning for costs of senior year and those unexpected costs of college.

## August & September

- Meet with your counselor to review graduation requirements, ensure you are on track for graduation, and are enrolled in course work aligned with your post-secondary goals.
- Talk to your counselor about possibilities for concurrent enrollment.
- If you need to improve your ACT/SAT scores, register for the September/October tests at [www.Collegeboard.org](http://www.Collegeboard.org).
- Plan to visit colleges and participate in regional college fairs.
  - Fremont Regional College Fair – Monday, September 23, 2019 at Canon City High School.
  - Explore programs and majors for careers that interest you.
  - Take virtual campus tours.
  - Do a side by side comparison of schools.
- Research specific college application requirements and the Common Application.
  - Determine what the requirements are and which application process is most appropriate.
  - Make a checklist of specific college application requirements that can be checked off as they are completed.
  - Most early decision and early action applications are due between October 1 and November 1.
- Start or continue searching for scholarship opportunities. Although you may not be able to apply right now, you can find out what the requirements and deadlines and work toward them.
- Make sure you have applied for the Colorado Opportunity Fund.
- Request letters of recommendation from academic teachers as well as your high school counselor, coach and/or sponsor.
  - Provide your resume, recommendation forms, and any special instructions to the people writing your recommendation.
  - Be sure to request recommendations letters at least three weeks before needed.
  - Be thoughtful! Write thank you notes to those who write recommendation and keep them informed of your post-secondary plans.

## October

- Submit college and scholarship applications in time to reach the colleges by the deadline.
  - Order official transcripts from Mrs. Stage in the Counseling office and check with your counselor to ensure your transcript has been submitted to the colleges to which you are applying.
  - If applying early decision or early action, submit your application now.

- If you need financial aid, obtain and complete a FAFSA worksheet online [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).
- Check to see if the colleges to which you are applying require any other financial aid forms.
- Confirm your letters of recommendation are complete and ready to submit with your applications.
- Complete your application essays and be sure to personalize them for the college you plan to apply to. Make sure to change the names of the colleges you are applying to in each submission.
- The 2019 **Colorado Free Application Day** is Tuesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Students will be able to apply to any Colorado public college or university and many private institutions for **free**.
- Register for the NCAA Clearinghouse if you plan to participate in inter-collegiate sports.
- FAFSA Night at PCC-Fremont Campus, October 24<sup>th</sup>. Advisors will work with anyone to complete the FAFSA even if you are not planning to attend PCC.
- Submit senior baby pictures to Mrs. Berger.

## November

- Continue to complete and submit college admission applications. Save your information before submitting the applications.
- Be sure to check emails, Remind messages, FJSHS website, Senior Google Classroom, and/or consult with your counselor about scholarship opportunities.
- Check with College/University Financial Aid Offices for specific information on scholarships and costs for tuition, fees, room and board, and any other financial aid information they require.
- If you submitted a FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within three weeks. Carefully review the SAR checking for inaccuracies, make necessary corrections, and return it to the FAFSA processor.
- Senior class meeting, November 7<sup>th</sup>. Jostens representative helps students prepare for graduation.
- Jostens Order Days, November 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>. Turn in orders for graduation caps and gowns to Jostens Representative. You have the option to order graduation announcements from Jostens or make other arrangements.

## December

- Have official test scores sent to colleges on your list if you have not done so. You can choose to send all score reports or only one set. This is your decision.
- Keep all records, test score reports, copies of college applications for admission, and financial aid. Do not throw anything away until at least the end of your first year in college. Having detailed records will save you time and effort.
- Finish your first semester with a stellar GPA.
- Submit senior yearbook picture to Mrs. Berger.

## January & February

- Keep working hard in each of your classes! Grades and courses continue to count throughout senior year.
- Monitor your applications to be sure they are complete and all materials are sent and received on time. Don't procrastinate, you can ruin your chances for admission by missing a deadline. When available utilize the on-line account they gave you.
- Complete scholarship applications before the deadline.
  - You may be eligible for more scholarships than you think, so apply for as many as you can.
  - Keep an eye out for financial aid workshops and seminars for you and your parents.
- If you don't already have a good computer, investigate purchasing one for college.
- Submit Senior Bio and Picture for the Florence Citizen & Canon City Daily Record.





### **March & April**

- Stay focused and keep studying! Only a couple more months to go!
- Submit FHS Educational Scholarship applications to Mrs. Benker by April 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Some colleges do not have application deadlines; they admit students on a continuous basis. However, do not take rolling admission applications for granted. These schools may reach their maximum class size quickly. The earlier you apply, the more availability there will be.
- Review your college acceptance letters, scholarship offers, and financial aid awards.
  - Compare financial aid packages in your decision making process.
  - You must decide which offer of admission to accept by May 1.
  - Send in your tuition/housing deposit and follow all other instructions for the school you will be attending.
  - Notify colleges if you are positive you will not attend.
- Obtain dates for and plan to attend senior end of year activities including Senior Scholarship Night, Dog Walk, Senior Breakfast/Lunch, Graduation Practice, Senior Fun Fest, Graduation, etc.

### **May & June**

- Take advanced Placement Exams if applicable and decide if you want to send your results to the college you will attend.
- If you were placed on a wait list for a particular college and have decided to wait for an opening, contact that college and let them know you are still very interested.
- Request your final transcript to be sent to the college you will be attending, obtain the request form from Mrs. Stage in the Counseling Office.
- Request official college transcripts from PCC and CSU-P if you took classes that awarded dual credit.
- Write thank you notes to the organizations awarding you scholarships. Keep all scholarship contact information for future reference.

### **Summer after Senior Year**

- Check your email for information about housing, roommate(s), orientation, course selection, etc. Be sure to respond promptly.
- Meet with the Office of Disability Services if you plan to apply for accommodations in college,
- Participate in summer orientation programs for incoming freshmen.
- It is a good idea to make sure you have student health insurance in case of any emergencies.