

## *SENIOR COLLEGE PLANNING CALENDAR*

### **AUGUST/SEPTEMBER**

- Register for the ACT/SAT.
- If you already took either test, review your results and find ways to improve your score.
- **STUDY! STUDY! STUDY!** for the ACT/SAT.
- Make a list of the 8 colleges that you plan on applying to.
- Meet with your college counselor
- Make sure that you have the credits you need to graduate
- Check with your college counselor to determine if the colleges you have selected are a “good fit” for you.
- Update your resume. You will need the information when filling out college applications.
- Don’t let your grades slip. Higher grades help show colleges that you are serious about academics.
- Obtain college applications on the college’s websites, and through The Common Application.
- Begin to fill out rough draft applications and start college essays.
- Look for college representative visits and college trips information in daily announcements, the guidance office and on IMSA’s website.
- Attend IMSA’s Financial Aid Night.
- Gather the necessary paperwork to complete your FAFSA.

### **OCTOBER**

- Keep grades up. They still count!
- **Submit your FAFSA form after October 1st.**
- Take or re-take the ACT and/or SAT/SATII.
- Meet with your counselor to review your applications.
- Plan interviews if required and /or offered. Visit colleges.
- Continue writing rough drafts and college essays.
- Research scholarships at the schools to which you are applying as well as private scholarships.
- Ask for recommendation letters from teachers, school counselors, employers, pastors, etc. Ask them for the letter at least two to three weeks before you need it.

### **NOVEMBER**

- Keep those grades up. They still count!
- Take or re-take the ACT and/or SAT.
- Review and proofread applications and essays with your counselor, teachers.
- Visit colleges.
- Meet with college representatives and continue scholarship search.
- Finish and submit college applications by Thanksgiving. Follow your school’s procedure for sending official transcripts to colleges.

## **DECEMBER**

- Contact the admissions' offices to ensure that they have received the application, references, and transcript and test scores.
- Continue to keep your grades up.
- Continue searching for scholarships.
- Inform your counselor of any acceptance letters you may receive around this time.

## **JANUARY/FEBRUARY**

- Make sure that all of the colleges you have applied to have received all required documents.
- Work on scholarship applications.
- Again, continue to work hard and study!
- Continue to keep the counselors informed of any acceptance letters.
- Keep an eye out for scholarship deadlines.

## **MARCH**

- Watch for the Student Aid Report (SAR) to arrive and make sure the colleges you have applied to have also received it.
- Submit tax forms to the Financial Aid Officer of the colleges that request them.
- Send any new information that will make your application stronger.
- Arrange for a second visit or an overnight stay at the schools where you've been accepted.

## **APRIL**

- Watch for acceptance letters
- Compare the financial aid Award Letters from different college with counselors.
- Decide which college to attend and notify the school of your decision. Pay your housing or matriculation deposit by May 1st.

## **MAY/JUNE**

- Pay deposit to the college you chose by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
- Keep track of deadlines for financial aid, scholarships and the housing deposit. Your housing deposit must be in by May 1st to secure housing for your first year.
- Send the college your final transcript.
- Notify the college of any external scholarships you may have received
- Send thank you letters to anyone who helped you through the college process, such as counselors, teachers and mentors.
- Graduate and have a good summer- YOU DESERVE IT! Congratulations!