

College Planning

Senior Year

Senior year is a whirlwind of activities. This is a big year to balance schoolwork, extracurricular activities, and the college application process. Use the suggestions below to help successfully navigate this important time. Be sure to check out [the WBHS Brace website](#).

Summer

- If you haven't already, visit campuses of colleges you are interested in. Use the [Campus Visit Checklist](#) to help get the most out of these experiences.
- Finalize your college list. Choose which colleges to apply to by weighing how well each college meets your needs. [Find out how to finalize a college list](#).
- Find out a college's actual cost. Take your college list and use the [Net Price Calculator](#) to find out the potential for financial aid and true out-of-pocket cost – or the net price – of each college.
- Get started on applications. Get the easy stuff out of the way now by filling in as much required information on college applications as possible. [Read about how to get started on applications](#).
- Discuss with your parents, about applying early. If you are set on going to a certain college, think about whether applying early is a good option. Now is the time to decide because early applications are usually done in November. Read more about the pros and cons of [applying early](#).

Fall

- Make sure you meet with your Brace Advisor. This meeting is especially important this year as you start to engage in the college application process. Learn more about [the high school counselor's role](#).
- Create a calendar that includes deadlines and important dates. Find specific college deadlines in [College Search](#). If you have saved colleges to a list there, you can get a custom online calendar that shows those college deadlines.
- Retake the SAT & ACT. Learn more about how to [prepare for admission tests](#).
- Go over your college applications with your parents. It is your work but be will listen to their comments and suggestions.
- Find and apply for scholarships. Use [the WBHS Brace website](#) . You will need to request and complete scholarship applications and submit them on time. Learn more about scholarships.

- Set up college interviews. The [interview process](#) is a great way to learn more about a college and for a college to learn more about you.

Winter

- Work with your parents to apply for financial aid. Contact the financial aid offices at the colleges you are interested in to find out what forms students must submit to apply for aid. Make sure you apply for aid by or before any stated deadlines. Funds are limited, so the earlier you apply, the better.
- Fill out the FAFSA to apply for aid. The government and many colleges use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to award aid. Now it's easier than ever to fill out this form because you can automatically transfer your tax information online from the IRS to the FAFSA. Read [How to Complete the FAFSA](#).
- Discuss with your parents about college loan options. Borrowing money for college can be a smart choice – especially if you get a low-interest federal loan. Learn more about the [parent's role in borrowing money](#)
- Consider taking SAT Subject Tests. These tests can showcase your interest and achievements – and many colleges require or recommend that applicants take one or more Subject Tests. Read more about [SAT Subject Tests](#). **COVID UPDATE - College Board Will No Longer Offer SAT Subject Tests or SAT with Essay**
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- Consider taking AP exams. If you are in AP or other advanced classes, talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May. Read about the [AP Program](#).

Spring

- Talk with your parents about college responses. Once you start hearing back about admission and financial aid, you will need your parent's support to decide what to do. Read about [how to choose a college](#).
- Review financial aid offers together. You will need your parents help to read through financial aid award letters and figure out which package works best for your situation. Be sure to pay attention to and meet deadlines for acceptance. Get more information on [financial aid awards](#).
- Work with your parents to complete the paperwork to accept a college's offer of admittance. Once you have decided which college to attend, you will need to accept the college's offer, mail a tuition deposit and submit other required paperwork. Learn more about your [next steps](#).