

# Senior Timeline

## August – December: Visit/ Apply/ Fill out FAFSA

- Register and take the ACT/SAT or other required exams. [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com)
- Attend Financial Aid Meeting at JCC High School
- Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) and any other required financial aid documents as soon as possible after October 1<sup>st</sup>. The earlier the better! Find more information and apply at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Research colleges and careers at <http://www.mncis.intocareers.org>  
username: jackson password: husky
- Gather letters of recommendation from teachers.
- Meet with your counselor to address college application questions.
- Pay careful attention to all application details and deadlines.
- Complete and submit college applications.
- If you need a transcript sent to a college you must request them in writing from the counseling office.
- Watch for college/military visits at JCC (in the announcements & posted outside the counseling office)
- Check for scholarship information - online, in counseling office, and on the counseling website
- If you are taking PSEO/College credit classes-you must request a transcript from the colleges to be sent to the college you are applying to:  
<http://www.smsu.edu/CampusLife/RegistrationRecords/Index.cfm?Id=2202>  
<http://www.mnsu.edu/registrar/transcripts.html>  
<http://www.mnwest.edu/registration-records/transcript-request>
- Go on college visits.
- Register online at [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com), [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com) and [scholarshipamerica.com](http://scholarshipamerica.com) for other scholarships.
- Earn strong senior grades.

## January – February: Finalize Applications

- If you haven't already done so, complete and submit all college applications.
- Write thank you notes to the adults who wrote letters of recommendation on your behalf.
- If any of your colleges require midyear transcripts, request them from the office.
- Check for scholarship opportunities.
- Earn strong senior grades.

## March – May: Make Your Decision!

- Watch for local community scholarship information.
- Decide where you are going- typically this needs to happen by May 1.
- Notify other schools and programs of your decision.
- Submit your deposit and other necessary materials to your college.
- Continue pursuing scholarships.
- Earn strong senior grades.

## College Application Process

### Applications

- Obtain application materials online and carefully review all details, requirements and deadlines. Prioritize your “to do” list according to deadlines.
- Typically you will need to create online accounts with each college to complete and submit your online applications. This will allow you to save your work on applications over time until you are ready to submit.
- Just over 500 colleges across the country utilize the Common Application in their admissions process. If you are applying to a college or multiple colleges using the Common Application, you will need to create your online account at: [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org). This is a lengthy application, so get started early!

### Counselor Letter of Recommendation

- Some colleges require a recommendation from your counselor, often as part of a specific form sometimes called the “School Report Form” or the “School Counselor Form.” Be sure to give copies of all the necessary forms to your counselor.
- Please give your counselor a copy of your completed Letter of Recommendation Information Sheet that can be found online on the Student Services page.
- Plan ahead! Talk with your counselor about writing a letter as far in advance of the deadline as possible – at least two weeks, but more is preferable! Remember, if you ask for a last-minute letter, you will likely get last-minute quality.

### Teacher Letter of Recommendation

- Some colleges require letters of recommendation from a teacher or two. When they are required, colleges often have a specific “Teacher Recommendation” form for them to complete along with an attached letter. Be sure to give all the appropriate application forms to your recommenders, including stamped and addressed envelopes for them to mail their documents directly to your colleges.
- Some colleges do not require letters of recommendation, but you may choose to submit a letter or two if you feel it will strengthen your application.
- Plan ahead! Talk with your teachers about writing a letter as far in advance of the deadline as possible – at least two weeks, but more is preferable! Remember, if you ask for a last-minute letter, you will likely get last-minute quality.

### Test Scores

- Send your ACT/SAT score reports directly from ACT and/or the College Board. When registering for the exams, students are provided with four free score reports for both the ACT and SAT. Additional score reports require an extra fee and may be obtained as follows:

#### ACT Score Reports

Reports can be ordered online, over the phone or in writing. The cost is \$12.00 per score report. For more specific information, visit: <http://www.actstudent.org>

#### SAT Score Reports

Reports can be ordered online or over the phone. The cost is \$11.25 per score report. For more specific information, visit: <http://www.collegeboard.com>

### High School Transcripts

- All transcripts must be requested from the counseling office.