

Senior Year College Application Timeline

Students

Summer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> If you are applying to a visual or performing arts program, work on your audition piece or portfolio. <input type="checkbox"/> Begin working on your college and scholarship application essays. You should already have some drafts saved in google docs from the TRIO Summer Academy. <input type="checkbox"/> Attend a TRIO summer academy and try to get some volunteer work in.
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Meet with your TRIO Advisor to finalize your list of colleges and begin applying. You must do this work on your own as well as when you meet with your TRIO advisor. It is time to take matters into your own hands! <input type="checkbox"/> Review your High school transcript with your TRIO advisor to ensure it is accurate and up to date. <input type="checkbox"/> Register to retake the ACT/SAT if you are interested in improving your scores. <input type="checkbox"/> Ask for letters of recommendation from people such as: teachers, counselors, coaches, employers, club advisors and your TRIO advisor. Use the recommendation letter worksheet provided by your TRIO advisor to share your information with these recommenders. You should get at least two letters. Make sure that you maintain a good relationship with your recommenders throughout this year! <input type="checkbox"/> Update your college file! Include an updated resume and records of your activities, volunteer work, programs, classes, and traveling. <input type="checkbox"/> Open an online application or request and application for each school that you wish to apply to. <input type="checkbox"/> Use last year's or create a Master Calendar that includes application deadlines for colleges and scholarships. <input type="checkbox"/> Be on the lookout for visits to your school by representatives from the colleges you are interested in. You can get this information from your TRIO Advisor or the counselling office. Be sure to attend those meetings! <input type="checkbox"/> Start applying for scholarships – Make sure you ask your school counselor to recommend you for the Daniel's Fund Scholarship which opens September 30th. <input type="checkbox"/> Talk to your parents about FAFSA – the application opens Oct. 1st and you will need them to locate last year's taxes to complete it.
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> File your FAFSA on Oct. 1st or ASAP after that date. <input type="checkbox"/> Retake the ACT or SAT if you want to do so. <input type="checkbox"/> Begin all college applications (giving first priority to your early decision/early action applications) DO NOT pay application fees! Your TRIO Advisor will supply you with application fee waivers. <input type="checkbox"/> If you are planning to apply early decision or early action you need to complete those applications now. <input type="checkbox"/> Register for a 2nd semester concurrent enrollment course to get a head start on college credits. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships!
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Continue working on your college applications. You should have all of your essays completed by now and hand them over to teachers and your TRIO Advisor for review/editing. <input type="checkbox"/> Keep records of when you submit applications and request test scores to be sent. Colleges and your counseling office sometimes misplace these so it is up to you to keep track. Your TRIO Advisor can help you stay organized. <input type="checkbox"/> Follow up with schools to which you submitted FAFSA: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Check for any additional documentation each school might request from you prior to awarding you financial aid. <input type="checkbox"/> If any special circumstances affect your family's financial situation, have your TRIO Advisor assist you in alerting each college's financial aid office. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships! – The Boettcher Scholarship is due November 1st, Daniel's Fund Scholarship is due November 30th!

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December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete all college applications before winter break. <input type="checkbox"/> If you have applied early decision, you should have received an answer by now. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships!
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Submit an updated resume to colleges you have applied to with any additional awards/honors you received first semester if applicable. <input type="checkbox"/> If a college wants to see your midyear grades, request that your counselor send updated transcripts for you. <input type="checkbox"/> Start chatting with your TRIO college student mentor! Ask them any questions you might have about college. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships! – The Gates Millennium Scholarship is due Mid-January.
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Contact your colleges or review your online application to confirm that all application materials have been received. <input type="checkbox"/> Register for AP exams – Don't pay the fees! Talk to your TRIO Advisor about getting assistance paying for the exam. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships!
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> If you haven't received admissions decisions from all of the schools that you have applied to by now, you need to call their admissions offices to make sure your application is complete. <input type="checkbox"/> Send copies of your FAFSA information to any scholarships that require it. <input type="checkbox"/> Don't get senioritis! Colleges care about your second semester grades. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships! – Many Local and Institutional Scholarship deadlines are March 1st
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Get assistance from your TRIO Advisor to carefully compare financial aid award letters. Your decision about where to go is most likely going to come down to which school is most affordable based on your financial aid award. <input type="checkbox"/> If you don't get enough aid, consider appealing the award. Get help from your TRIO Advisor with this if you are unsure about what to do. <input type="checkbox"/> Once you've made a decision, notify other colleges that you won't be attending. <input type="checkbox"/> Apply for scholarships! – Especially Local Scholarships!
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Take AP exams. <input type="checkbox"/> Register for COF if you will be attending in-state. <input type="checkbox"/> Study hard for finals – your final grades matter! <input type="checkbox"/> Make sure you write thank you notes for any scholarships that you have received and to the people who wrote you recommendation letters. <input type="checkbox"/> Register for housing and a meal plan if you're going to be living on campus. Also be aware that there is usually a housing deposit to hold your spot ranging from \$200-\$500. <input type="checkbox"/> Register for orientation – colleges often register you for classes at your orientation session so the earlier your orientation is the better! <input type="checkbox"/> Make sure you fill out and submit any other paperwork that the college sends you.
June-August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Get ready for College! <input type="checkbox"/> Attend orientation. <input type="checkbox"/> Get in contact with your roommate if possible. <input type="checkbox"/> Accept and fulfill any financial aid or scholarship requirements. <input type="checkbox"/> GET EXCITED!!

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Parents

<input type="checkbox"/>	Monitor your student's academic progress. Get your student's school login and aim to check their grades online weekly. Use this as an opportunity to help your student identify classes they may need help in before those classes become a problem. Then communicate any concerns to your TRIO advisor. Don't assume someone will call you if there's a problem.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Check in regularly with your student about the progress they are making on their TRIO student checklist. Ask them about what they are working on with their TRIO advisor.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Provide encouragement and support, and make sure that your child understands that grades are very important.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Realize that it is your student's responsibility to get homework done, prepare for tests, and follow school rules.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Encourage involvement in activities outside of school, but limit the number of activities because colleges are looking for quality , not quantity. Also make sure a student job does not interfere with school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Help your student select appropriate courses (rigorous curriculum, see student checklist for details). Talk with your student's TRIO advisor and/or their school counselor about what classes your student should take in order to be on track for college acceptance and success.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Explore and discuss college options. Talk with your student regularly about their plans after high school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stay in contact with your student's UB advisor and make sure your student attends UB activities throughout the year.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ensure your student is working on college applications and scholarship applications from home! Senioritis is real and happens to many of our seniors. The time that your child spends working with the TRIO Advisor at school is not enough to get it all done – they must be working from home to stay on track.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Expect your student to be in school, on time, every day. Not only will this help your student have the best chance for success in high school but it will also help them create and maintain this habit for when they go to college.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Attend open houses and parent conferences.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Limit your student's screen time. The American Academy of Pediatrics recommends that children watch no more than 1-2 hours of quality programming on TV per day. Encourage your student to watch less TV and instead participate in other activities such as riding bikes, doing something creative, or reading. If possible, try to do these activities with your student!

Things to Remember:

1. This document is only a guideline, every school is different. Make sure to read the deadlines for your school before you apply.
2. If you have any questions ask! Call your TRIO Advisor, an admissions counselor, or someone in the financial aid office if you have any questions. We all know how confusing applying to college can be and are happy to help.
3. Do everything as early as possible. We know that you are going through school and have other activities, however college is important and applying takes time. Applying early will help you with financial aid, getting accepted, and your general stress level.
4. You can do this! Never forget that you have the skills to do this and we are always here to help.