



Senior College Planning Timeline 2016-17

September

- Focus on your studies. Colleges may request first semester grades and always require a final transcript. Your grades should continue to clearly demonstrate your abilities and potential.
- Make sure your transcript is correct (birthdate, class titles, grades, etc.)
- Consider retaking the ACT, SAT, and/or SAT Subject Tests.
- Research all deadlines for standardized tests, colleges, and scholarships you are considering. Write them down in a very obvious place (i.e. College Application Checklist and Deadlines worksheet).
- Send official standardized test scores from the testing agency to the colleges to which you are applying via www.actstudent.org (ACT) and www.collegeboard.org (SAT). You will need a credit card. YOU decide which scores to send, but your counselor is happy to assist with this decision. Note that it may take several weeks for the scores to be processed by a college.
- Attend the **KC Private HS College Fair** that Sion co-hosts with several other area schools on **Tuesday, September 13, 6:30-8:30pm at Rockhurst HS**. Students should register online before attending:
<http://www.gotocollegefairs.com>; Click the “Students Register Now” button toward the top left of the page
- Check Naviance often for the most updated lists of visiting college reps.
- Meet college admission officers when they visit Sion. Sign up for the college visit in Naviance at least 2 days before and *notify your teacher in advance!*
- Organize your résumé/activities list.
- Complete your college essay. Review college application supplements and work on any short answers or essays that are required.
- Begin submitting college applications.
- Friday, September 23rd is Parent/Student/Teacher conferences (no school). This is an excellent day to visit a college campus or two while classes are in session.
- If an interview can be scheduled when visiting a college, take advantage of this opportunity. This is a good way to make a great impression with a college admissions office! Also try to attend a class when visiting a campus.
- Request transcripts via Family Connection at least four weeks prior to a college’s deadline. Sign in, click on “Colleges I’m applying to” and then “request transcripts”.
- Begin/continue researching scholarship opportunities through college/university websites AND other financial aid websites such as www.finaid.org, www.scholarshipexperts.com, www.fastweb.com, and <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
- Athletes who are considering playing a varsity sport in college must register with the NCAA Eligibility Center at www.eligibilitycenter.org and/or the NAIA Eligibility Center www.playnaia.com.

October

- Retake the ACT/SAT if you think you could possibly increase your score. Talk with your college counselor if you have *any* questions about testing.
- Meet with college admissions officers when they visit Sion.
- Continue completing applications and working on essays.
- Parents - consider attending the **Financial Aid Night** Sion co-sponsors with Barstow the evening of **Wednesday, October 5th**. Location: Barstow HS.
- Attend the **National College Fair at Kansas City Convention Center on Sunday, October 9th from 1:00-4:00 PM**. Students should register online before attending:
<http://www.gotomyncf.com/Registration/EventSelectForState?stateName=All>
 - Scroll through list of college fairs, select the fall Kansas City fair, and click the “Register Now” button
- Monday, October 17th is Fall Break (no school). This is an excellent day to visit a college campus or two while classes are in session.
- If you plan to apply for financial assistance, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, (<http://fafsa.ed.gov>) soon after October 1st
- Be aware of Early Decision, Early Action, and scholarship priority deadlines, many of which fall on November 1st or November 15th. There are a few deadlines as early as October 15th! Early Decision applicants should also pay attention to fall financial aid deadlines.

November

- Retake the SAT/register to retake the December ACT if you think you could possibly increase your score.
- Be aware of approaching scholarship deadlines. December 1st is another very common deadline for scholarship and admission applications.
- Wrap up any college visits you plan to make before applying. Remember that many schools will be closed during the week of Thanksgiving.

December

- Write thank you notes to the teachers who wrote a recommendation letter for you -**this is so important**.
- Report any early or rolling admission decisions to your counselor.

January

- Keep your senior year grades strong and ensure you are meeting all Sion graduation requirements.
- Continue to notify your college counselor of any college decisions and scholarship offers.

February/March/April

- If necessary, visit or re-visit any colleges to which you have been admitted.
- Consult your college counselor as a resource to help you sort through admission and scholarship offers.
- Make your final decision!

May

May 1st is the National Candidate Reply Date, the deadline by which you must let colleges know whether you are accepting or declining their offers of admission. You must notify every college that offered you admission of your decision, even the colleges you decide not to attend. This important communication helps to maintain the relationships Sion builds with colleges/universities throughout the country.