

Senior Year Roadmap

As you move through your final year, remember that the sooner you finish your applications, the more time you'll have for academics, extracurriculars, family, friends, and senior-year fun!

I encourage you to have the majority of applications completed to coincide with Colorado Free Days + early deadlines in October.

Reach out if you want help turning this plan into action!

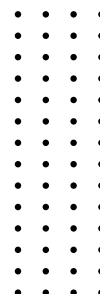
Big Picture Mindset

Reflect on personal, academic, and professional + career goals
Embrace the future (and the uncertainty of college admissions)
Complete college applications + essays
Maintain solid grades
Explore scholarship opportunities (all year)



August + September

	Formally ask your teachers, counselors, coaches, if they will write a letter of recommendation. Provide résumé, statement of purpose, and/or complete teacher form.
	Strategize your college list. Is your list balanced? What application rounds will you apply?
	Finalize any college visits for this semester. Sign up for on-campus tours and take notes. Take the virtual tours too!
	Start following all schools on social media + sign up (and open) admissions emails.
	Meet with your guidance counselor to review course load + college / post-HS plans.
	Sign your school's FERPA. If under 18, a parent will also need to sign.
	Do you need to retake the ACT or SAT? Spots fill early. Make time for prep!
	Attend your senior meeting as well as college planning night with your parent(s).
	Maintain strong grades as senior-year ramps up! A college can request them at any time.
	Stay actively involved in your extracurriculars.
	Finalize personal statement Common App essay. Get feedback from teacher or mentor.
	Finalize your Activities List. Remember to showcase leadership + impact. Be specific!
	Gather + start drafting your supplemental essays. Ground them in real research.
	Apply to any schools on your list with rolling admissions (if your application is ready).





August + September - continued

	Start institutional scholarship research. Tip: Create a spreadsheet to keep it all together. Make a weekly goal to stay on track.
	Attending college visits + college fairs that make sense for you.
	Start outreach + engagement with colleges. If possible, set up a local rep meeting.
	Confirm application deadlines, test policies, etc. for every school + record them in your master spreadsheet.

October - November

	Finalize your supplemental essays.
	Submit all early applications due in October + for Colorado Free App Days!
	Continue attending college visits at your school or in the nearby area. They matter.
	Apply for financial aid through FAFSA + CSS Profile (if required)! Gather tax forms + allow plenty of time to complete these; both open on Oct. 1. Tip: This is a great time to discuss financial priorities + budget with your family.
	Send test scores using the school's reporting code or review self-reporting policies. Weigh pros + cons of submitting scores to any test-optional schools.
	Confirm with counselor that letters of recs + official transcripts have been sent.
	If not already completed, finish the 100-character mission statement in Common App (look under "Education" section when you select "other" as your career choice).
	Answer school-specific college questions within their applications.
	Write handwritten thank-you notes to everyone who has helped you along this journey.

December

	Finish Regular Decision apps by mid-December unless you want to spend break writing essays! Review all apps a final time. Submit + save confirmation emails + screenshots.
	Plan ahead and make time to study your first semester finals. These are really important!
	Double-check deadlines for your Jan. 1 + Jan. 15 schools on your list.



January - March

	Sit down with a calendar early. Plan time to visit any remaining / newly added colleges. Don't forget the February holiday weekends + Spring Break.
	Request mid-year transcripts. Has your college requested them?
	Sign up for optional admissions / alumni interviews + prepare questions (if applicable).
	Get in the habit of checking your portals regularly all semester. Applied to 9 schools? You have 9 portals to track. Stay grounded as you wait for decisions to come in.
	Attend admitted student days + scholar days to get a better sense of fit. Find opportunities to engage with current students through overnight visits, social + email, interviews, etc.
	Research + apply to private scholarships. Set a weekly goal. Write tailored essays.
	Remember: A deferral or waitlist is not a denial! Reach out to Sarah for strategy on contacting your regional admissions rep to demonstrate continued interest.

April - May — You're almost there!

	If waitlisted, send a LOCI with a short update + reaffirm commitment to the school. Note: Do not send additional materials if they specifically say not to do so.
	Evaluate + compare financial aid packages carefully. As decision deadlines approach, you can go back to a school + submit a financial aid appeal.
	Meet with your counselor for a final check-in before graduation.
	Share your decision with your counselor as well as a list of any scholarship \$\$ received.
	If you decide not to attend a college, notify them promptly so your spot can be given out.
	Make a formal decision, submit your deposit, and formally enroll by May 1 . Check the college does not have any other deadlines or requests.
	Complete housing applications, scholarship + Honors College applications.
	Take final exams seriously. They will appear on your final transcript.
	Don't forget to register, study for, and take applicable AP exams.
	Confirm your final transcript is sent to your enrolled college.
	Keep looking for scholarships throughout the summer months!