

College Planning Timeline

Fall

- Start developing a résumé** – Compile a record of your accomplishments, activities, and work experiences. This will be an important part of your college and scholarship applications.
- Register for the SAT or ACT** – Everyone took the SAT as a junior, but if you'd like the opportunity to improve your scores, be sure to take the test as early as possible. Due to COVID, some schools are waiving test scores as part of their application requirements. Be sure to read each college's policy carefully.
 - RCHS is offering the SAT School Day on Wednesday, October 12th. Registration and payment are due to the guidance office by Wednesday, September 7th.
- Register with the NCAA or NAIA (if applicable)** – Planning to play sports at a Division I or II college? You'll need to register with either the NCAA or NAIA, depending on which colleges you are interested in attending.
- Meet with your counselor (4 year plan)** – Ensure you are on track to graduate and review college application, financial aid, and scholarship application procedures.
- Narrow down your lists of colleges** – Begin to consider “safe”, “reach” and “realistic” schools. It is generally a good idea to apply to at least four schools.
- Begin college applications** – Most colleges open their applications around August 1st. It is recommended that you submit all college applications by **November 1st**. Pay close attention to the application deadlines for each of the colleges to which you are applying. Some majors have earlier deadlines than the general deadline for the college.
- Send your transcript** – Create a Parchment account at Parchment.com and digitally send your transcript to colleges.
- Continue college visits** – RCHS allows two college visit days during senior year.
- Research and begin completing scholarship applications** – Many scholarship applications are due in the spring, but some have fall deadlines. It never hurts to start early!
 - If you are in the top 25% of the class, apply for the Lilly Endowment Community Scholarship by September 15th!
- Attend Financial Aid Night—September 7th at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium** – Learn about the financial aid process and paying for college from the experts at INvested.
- File your FAFSA** – The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) is used to determine eligibility for student financial aid. The FAFSA will be available at www.fafsa.gov beginning October 1st. Be sure to file by 11:59 pm on April 15th! Some colleges have an earlier filing deadline.
 - Male students must register for the selective service within 30 days of their 18th birthday to be eligible for federal and state financial aid
- College Goal Sunday** – Need help completing your FAFSA? Financial Aid experts will be available at RCHS to assist on November 6th from 2-4 pm. More details coming soon!

Winter

- Continue working on scholarship applications** – Now is the time to work hard on filling out scholarship applications. Many scholarships, including local scholarships, are due around March/April.
- Review acceptance letters & financial aid** – Review your acceptances, compare financial aid packages, and visit your final choices.
- College Goal Sunday** – Need help completing your FAFSA? Financial Aid experts will be available at RCHS to assist on February 26th from 2-4 pm.

Spring

- Don't slack in the classroom** – The college you attend will want to see your final transcript. No Senioritis!
- Last chance to file your FAFSA**– Don't miss the April 15th deadline! You may need to make FAFSA corrections after submission.
- Secure your spot!** – May 1st is generally the date colleges use as a deadline for notifying them of your decision to attend, submitting your deposit, and accepting financial aid. Be sure to notify colleges you've decided not to attend as well.
- Complete your senior survey** – Counselors will visit your Government/Economics classes in the spring to give instructions about completing the senior survey.

After Graduation

- Send your high school transcript** – Be sure to log into your Parchment account and request that your final high school transcript be sent to your college of choice.
- Send your dual credit transcripts** – If you have earned dual credit while in high school, it is important that you send your Ivy Tech transcript indicating this credit to the college you plan to attend. Transcript request forms can be submitted online. The link can be found under the “guidance” section of the high school website.