

MAPPING OUT YOUR SENIOR YEAR

July/August

- ✓ Save money from your summer job for college
- ✓ List your top college choices
- ✓ Collect letters of recommendation from your teachers
- ✓ Start brainstorming ideas for your college essays
- ✓ Stay focused on maintaining or increasing your GPA
- ✓ Compare costs of each school that interests you by contacting the colleges by phone, mail or online

September

- ✓ Create separate folders for each of the schools that interest you and keep the materials organized
- ✓ Begin writing drafts of your college essays
- ✓ Register for the October ACT date
- ✓ Set up your FSA ID (*your parent will need one too*) and start gathering information to complete the FASFA

October

- ✓ Take the ACT
- ✓ Continue working on admissions essays
- ✓ Complete your FASFA online to determine your financial aid eligibility

November

- ✓ Complete admissions applications by their deadlines
- ✓ Complete applications for every scholarship for which you may be eligible
- ✓ Stay focused on maintaining and increasing your GPA

December

- ✓ Finalize any admission details and scholarship application details
- ✓ Organize scholarships, certificates, articles, etc. to illustrate your achievements and create a portfolio to display them

January

- ✓ DO NOT LET SENORITIS GET A GRIP!
- ✓ Finish strong on your last semester of high school

February

- ✓ Be mindful of deadlines. Always submit information on time.
- ✓ Rank your top school choices that you have been admitted to

March

- ✓ Narrow your school choices and make campus visits
- ✓ Be on the lookout for acceptance letters and financial aid award letters
- ✓ Start looking for a summer job

April

- ✓ Compare financial aid award letters
- ✓ Make your final school decisions and mail deposits, or pay deposits online
- ✓ Notify the schools you have chosen NOT to attend
- ✓ Plan for registration, orientation, and housing – mark your calendar with important dates

May

- ✓ Be aware of any summer orientations that you must attend at the school you have enrolled in
- ✓ Finalize your summer job plans, and make a plan for saving a portion of your summer earnings
- ✓ Prepare a realistic student budget
- ✓ Request college transcripts for any dual credit courses you took in high school

June

- ✓ Notify your high school guidance office of your college selections and any scholarships received
- ✓ Attend or register to attend college orientation
- ✓ Make sure to send out thank you notes for graduation gifts
- ✓ Work with your parents on things that you need to know how to do, or how to do better, while at college – like doing laundry, taking care of your car, or balancing your bank account

July

- ✓ Save money from your summer job
- ✓ Register for the fall semester
- ✓ Prepare for the new adventures that await you campus!

For more information or further details on any of the above information, please visit www.mappingyourfuture.org.