



College Planning: Senior Year

All year:

- Make certain you have met the following core academic requirements along with the credits required for graduation.
 - 4 years of English
 - 4 years of math
 - 3 years of different lab sciences
 - 2 years of social studies
 - 2 years of the same foreign language
 - 1 year of fine art or 1 year of CTE (for in state schools)
- Stay involved in activities and community service projects and seek leadership roles in those activities. You can look outside of school as well.
- Maintain a strong GPA (Grade Point Average) throughout the next two semesters of high school.
- If you start struggling in a class, be sure to talk to your teacher and get a tutor list from your counselor. If you fail or get low grades in any classes, make plans to retake them now.

August - September:

- Make certain you are registered for the courses required for your post-secondary goals, and challenge yourself academically.
- Meet one-on-one with your counselor to ensure you are on track to graduate and discuss college admission requirements.
- Start filling out admission applications using Naviance/Family Connection and/or the Common Application. Note all admission deadlines.
- Ask teachers and counselors for letters of recommendation if needed for applications. Do this using Naviance/Family Connections and make sure it is done well in advance of the deadlines. Use your **Resume** to help share information.
- Use the **college search** in Naviance/ Family Connection to narrow down the **list of colleges you are interested in** (1-5 is typical at this point).
- Check the **Scholarship List** in Naviance/Family Connection and search for scholarships which you feel are a good match for you. Read the criteria to see if there is anything that you need to complete, or participate in that you would have to have done before applying.

- ❑ Continue using Method Test Prep to prepare for or to retake any college exams such as the SAT, ACT or SAT Subject Tests.
- ❑ Start reviewing what you need to submit your FAFSA by November 1st (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You and your parents will need to apply for a FAFSA (FSA) ID: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
- ❑ To find the FAFSA form, and more information about completing the FAFSA, go to: www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- ❑ Attend college visits, meet with college reps, and go to college fairs if you are still undecided. Pay particular attention to, and try to visit the colleges on your list in Naviance/Family Connection.
- ❑ Update your electronic profile in Naviance/Family Connections.
 - ❑ **Resume**- helps you track the classes and activities you have participated in; such as Honors, AP classes, GPA, Clubs/Organizations, Leadership positions, sports, performing arts, speech and debate, community service, volunteer work, awards, jobs that you have held, etc.
 - ❑ **Game Plan**- is for your goals, plans and personal information.

October:

- ❑ Finalize your college choices on Naviance/Family Connection.
- ❑ NOVEMBER 1st- submit your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You and your parents will need to apply for a FAFSA (FSA) ID: <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm>
- ❑ If you have not done this already, set up a college specific email so you may receive information from colleges without overwhelming your pvclearners email.
- ❑ Retake ACT/SAT. (if necessary - check with your counselor if you have questions)
- ❑ Register with the NCAA Clearinghouse if you are interested in participating in college athletics. Go to www.eligibilitycenter.org for more information.
- ❑ Complete your college essay, if required.
- ❑ Notify counselors of your Common Application(s) submission.
- ❑ Request your transcripts to be sent to the colleges on your list under the Colleges Tab in Naviance/Family Connection.
- ❑ Send in applications for Early Decision/Early Action. (If this is your decision-check with your counselor if you have any questions about whether this is appropriate for you.)
 - ❑ **EARLY DECISION**- You agree that if you are offered admission, you will attend that school and withdraw all your applications elsewhere. This decision is binding unless you do not receive the financial aid necessary for you to attend. The downside though, is you won't have any chance to view any financial aid packages from other schools. **ONLY** apply under early decision if you have an absolute number-one choice in college **AND** if the strength of your application is at or exceeds the expectations of the college.

The bolded items are an ECAP (Education and Career Action Plan) requirement through the AZ State Department of Education. Paradise Valley School district provides Naviance/Family Connection for all of our high school students to have a digital portfolio of the required items and provide students and parents with a tool for career and college planning and research. Method Test Prep is an online test preparation program provided to the students of Paradise Valley Unified School District.

- EARLY ACTION- This admission plan is similar to early decision except the decision is nonbinding, and you can apply to more than one college at a time under early action plans and regular admissions. Decisions are mailed out well ahead of the regular-decision pool.

November - December:

- Have a serious discussion with your family about how you will pay for college and apply for scholarships. Find **Scholarship List** on Family Connection, under College tab.
- Finish your application essays. **Proofread! Proofread! Proofread!**
 - Ask a parent, teacher or counselor to read your essay for comments or suggestions.
- Complete and prepare application carefully. Submit applications to meet university deadlines.
- Contact College Board or ACT to have your scores sent to the college(s) to which you are applying.
 - SAT- www.collegeboard.com
 - ACT- www.act.org
- Attend Financial Aid night.
- Write thank you notes to your teachers, counselors, and anyone else who helped you or who wrote letters of recommendation on your behalf.

January:

- Meet one-on-one with your counselor to ensure you are still on track.
- Request your mid-year transcripts be sent to all colleges on your list through the college tab on Naviance/Family Connection.
- Ask your counselor to complete and submit your Common App mid-year report if you are completing applications through Common App.
- Add awards, honors, and accomplishments on your **Resume**.
- Take another look at **Scholarships** that are available at the college(s) you applied to, and apply for all that are appropriate.
- Make your final college decision, and update your list on Naviance/Family Connection.**
- Stay focused so you can graduate.

February - March:

- Register for AP exams. (if applicable)

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- Carefully review your Financial Aid Packages. You should be receiving these from the colleges where you were accepted.
- Send in college deposit and dorm reservations.
- Begin applying for summer employment.
- NO SENIORITIS!!!

April - May:

- Complete all tasks on Naviance/Family Connection.
- Turn in all the information for scholarships you received to the College and Career Center for Senior Awards Night.
- Attend Senior Award Night.
- Make sure all books are returned and all fees are paid to the bookstore.
- Take AP exams (if applicable). AP exams are end of course assessments and should be taken in the same school year you took the AP course(s).
- Study for your final exams.
- Enjoy your graduation and the next phase of your life. Life's a journey, so do your best to enjoy your travels!

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