

January Planning Guide for High School Seniors/Juniors

ACT/SAT Deadlines

▲ ACT Registration Deadlines

The registration deadline for the February 6 ACT: January 5 (note: the Feb 9 ACT is not available in New York). The late registration deadline: January 15. The registration deadline for the April 10 ACT is March 5. For more information, visit www.act.org.

Seniors

▲ Applications

Most college applications are due in January. Complete and send these applications as soon as possible.

▲ File Your FAFSA

File the Free Application for Federal Aid (FAFSA) as soon as possible. Apply online at www.fafsa.ed.gov or request forms at your high school.

Juniors

▲ Make a List

Make a list of the qualities that you are looking for in a college. These include type of school (public or private), size, cost, financial aid options, extracurricular activities, and majors offered. Attend college fairs in your area and use this list to help you narrow your choices. The National Association for College Admission Counseling offers a list of college fairs at its website, www.nacacnet.org.

▲ Gather Information

Visit college websites, talk to friends, and request college catalogs. Visit CollegeSource Online (www.collegesource.org) to view more than 49,545 college catalogs.



Photo courtesy of Comstock

▲ SAT Registration Deadlines

The registration deadline for the March 13 SAT only is February 4; the late registration deadline is February 18. The registration deadline for the May 1 SAT & Subject Tests is March 25. For more information, visit www.collegeboard.com.

▲ Financial Aid

Talk to your parents or guardians about financing strategies. Check into grant and scholarship deadlines, and prepare and send applications.

▲ Send Mid-Year Transcripts

If you have already applied to colleges, send your mid-year grade reports to these colleges.

▲ ACT/SAT

It's a good idea to check with schools that you are interested in to see which test they prefer—most schools accept both (some are test optional). If you plan on attending a school that accepts both, it might be a good idea to take both tests since you are likely to score better on one depending on your aptitudes and abilities.

▲ Financial Aid

Begin researching financial aid such as scholarships, grants, and loans. Talk to your parents about how you will fund your college education.

▲ Extracurricular Activities

Continue or start participating in extracurricular activities such as school clubs, newspapers, yearbook, speech teams, or athletics. These activities look great on your application and tell college administrators that you're a well-rounded individual. ●