

The Counselor's Corner

A SENIOR GUIDANCE CALENDAR

September – October

- Get P.I.N. number for filling out the FAFSA at www.pin.ed.gov. Both parent and student will need a pin to electronically sign the FAFSA in January.
- Check for scholarships at school(s) in which you are interested. Many select schools will have fall deadlines. 90% of private aid comes from the school a student will attend
- Finalize post high school plans: college/tech school/work, with your parents/guardians
- Work on essays and college applications
- Register for the October and December ACT/SAT if you need to improve your scores.
- Consult college reference books in the counseling center and library.
- Request information from potential colleges, register on-line to receive their material
- Attend college representative sessions for colleges in which you are interested
- Attend college open houses at their campus as available.
- Attend evening college information sessions at various locations that they sponsor to describe their campus and programs.
- Develop a resume for grades 8 through now and continue to update. Include things such as community service, academic awards/honors, summer programs, etc.
- Consider the option of Early Decision/Early Action acceptance to college. This is an certain out of state colleges. Early Decision is where you apply to one school in the fall and attend that school if accepted. Early Action is the same process but does not bind you to attend that schools.

November

- Register for CSS Profile at www.collegeboard.org if required for financial aid by a school you may be attending. Click on parents, then in the right hand column click CSS/PROFILE. You will not fill out the information at this time but you must register with College Board ahead of time with at least one school that will require the CSS Profile.

December

- College applications due in early January that require a counselor recommendation must be to the counselor by December 4
- Prepare for semester exams
- Look for chances to talk to college students who are home for the holidays, especially if they attend a school in which you are interested in
- Continue to attend college representative sessions

January

- If the timing works, do the CSS Profile and then the FAFSA.
- Fill out the FAFSA, on-line if possible, at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Fill out as much of it as you can on the web – you can save what you've done for later. When tax return is completed, you will just need to fill in a few things and send it off.
- Make sure you are staying on top of financial aid deadlines
- Complete any college application that still need to be sent in
- Many select schools will require the counselor to complete a mid-year form. Make sure you have turned that and an addressed, stamped envelope in to your counselor.

February – March

- Attend **College Goal Sunday** if help is needed with FAFSA
- Make sure you are staying on top of financial aid deadlines
- Many local scholarships are available at this time. Check with churches, civic groups, places of employment, the Conway Public Schools website, etc.

- April
- Many college admission letters will come in. Students have until May 1 to respond
 - Review your college acceptances and financial aid packages.
- May
- Reply to college acceptance letters by May1. Let all colleges that accepted you know whether or not you will be attending. Be proud – you have finished a difficult task
 - If your first choice college places you their waiting list, do not lose all hope. Some students are admitted at a later date off of waiting lists. Go ahead and accept another offer, then if you are selected off the wait list you can make a decision at that time.
 - Prepare for semester exams.
 - Take AP tests for any AP course. Scores on the test range from 1 -5. A score of 3 or higher will earn a student college credit at many universities.
 - Fill out form from the registrar (Ms. Jones) to have your final transcript sent to the college you will attend.
- June – July
- Register for classes – many schools will have you do that on-line, others will have summer orientation programs for you to attend and you will register then.