

College Planning Checklist

FRESHMAN				SOPHOMORE				JUNIOR				SENIOR			
Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
DISCOVER															
PREPARE															
SELECT															
												APPLY			
												DECIDE			
												PAY			

[DISCOVER] YOUR INTERESTS, ABILITIES AND VALUES

- Participate in summer jobs, internships, and special enrichment programs. Volunteer!
- Complete online career surveys and self-assessments to find suitable majors, careers and colleges.
 - o **CAREER CRUISING:**
 - o www.collegeincolorado.org >Click Create an Account >Click Choices Career Planner
- Shadow someone who has a job that interests you.

[PREPARE] FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- Attend the **9th-11th Grade College Planning Night** in **January 24, 2018, 6:30pm.**
- Attend your **Registration Meeting** with your counselor during late January/February.
- Work on study & organizational skills, time & stress management, and test & note taking skills.
 - o www.educationplanner.com
- Develop a college prep curriculum with your counselor and teachers and maintain good grades.
- College Entrance Tests (**Rocky's CEEB Code is 060588**)
 - o Research which test scores are required by the colleges that interest you.
 - o Practice Tests
 - PSAT (for sophomores/juniors to prep for SAT and qualify as National Merit Scholar)
 - Register in October for the test at Rocky
 - See your counselor for other scheduled practice ACT and SAT tests.
 - o SAT (juniors and seniors)
 - Begin preparing at www.collegeboard.org or www.khanacademy.org by January of your Junior year
 - All Juniors will take the state SAT in **April 10, 2018.**
 - Find out if your college requires SAT Subject Tests for admission.
 - Register at www.collegeboard.com to take an additional SAT in the summer/fall of senior year.
 - o ACT (juniors and seniors)
 - Begin preparing at www.actstudent.org
 - Register at www.actstudent.org to take an additional ACT in the summer/fall of senior year.
- College Athletics & NCAA Eligibility
 - o Junior Year
 - Take the SAT. (State or National Test Date)
 - Visit the NCAA Eligibility Center at <http://eligibilitycenter.org> to:
 - Register and confirm that you are taking the approved NCAA classes.
 - Ask the College & Career Center staff to send a transcript to the NCAA in May.
 - o Senior Year
 - Take the SAT or ACT in the fall to improve your scores.
 - Ask the College and Career Center staff to send a transcript to the NCAA in May.

[SELECT] COLLEGES

- Visit your counselor and share your plans with the College & Career Center.
- Visit the College & Career Center to learn about resources.
- Research online for "good-fit" colleges and review admission requirements.
 - o CAREER CRUISING
 - o www.CollegeinColorado.org, www.collegeboard.com & www.princetonreview.com.
- Visit College Admission Representatives
 - o Visit with them at Rocky. (The NAVIANCE website has visit days and times)
 - o Call colleges to schedule a campus visit.
 - o Attend the **In-State College Fair: October 30, 2017 at Rocky Mountain High School**
 - o Attend the **Out-Of-State College Fair: September 26, 2017 at Poudre High School**
 - o Use college evaluation sheets in College Planning Guide.

[APPLY] TO COLLEGE

- Attend your **Senior Meeting** with your counselor during September of your senior year.
- Attend the **Senior Planning Night/Financial Aid Night** at Rocky.
- Check **DEADLINES!** Student Services recommends submitting applications by **October 31st** (or earlier).
- Apply Online**
 - o Use your CAREER CRUISING account or visit college websites for links to online applications.
 - o Tip #1: Organize paperwork by making a folder for each college with to-do list on the front.
 - o Tip #2: Print a copy of your first application so you can use it to fill in information on others.
 - **Create a profile and open an application**
- Write Essay**
 - o Find out if the schools you're applying to require an essay.
 - o Get essay help from College Guide, English teachers, counselor, College and Career Center.
- Letters of Recommendation**
 - o Find out if the schools you're applying to require letters.
 - **Academic Profile** in College & Career Center.
 - Give counselor and letter writer a copy of both your **Resume** and **Academic Profile**.
 - Give a COPY to Leah Kapral in Student Services and THANK them.
- Submit Application Paperwork** (counselor evaluation, essays, letters of recommendation)
 - o Fill out and give **Transcript Request Form** to Leah Kapral with \$3/transcript.
- Interview**
 - o Find out if the schools you're applying to interview
 - o See your counselor and the College & Career Center for interview tips and preparation.

[DECIDE] WHICH COLLEGE IS RIGHT FOR YOU

- Consider what's important: location, cost, academics, activities, size, and program length?
- Compare financial aid packages and send your non-refundable deposit.

[PAY] WITH FINANCIAL AID, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FAFSA

- Begin searching for scholarships (start with the colleges to which you've applied)
 - o www.fastweb.com & www.wiredscholar.com
 - o **Local Scholarship Packet** from the College & Career Center (or your school email)
 - Pick up in mid-January and return in mid-February of your senior year.
- Register for **Colorado Opportunity Fund** at www.collegeincolorado.org if attending In-State.

- Checkout the **Western Undergraduate Exchange** (WUE) for lower out-of-state tuition options.
- FAFSA (Federal Application For Student Aid)
 - Register for your FAFSA PIN at www.pin.ed.gov. (you will use this PIN each year).
 - Fill out FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov after October 1st.