



# RMHS Senior College Timeline Class of 2020

All year	August	September	October	November
<p>Check your school and personal email regularly</p> <p>Get text reminders about career and college opportunities: Text @rmh2020 to the number 81010</p> <p>Visit college campuses every chance you get! Call ahead for the campus tour schedule.</p> <p>Attend the RMHS College Representative visits. They are a great way to get your questions answered. Check the TV across from the College &amp; Career Center for a complete schedule (it updates frequently!).</p> <p>Use a professional (not PSD) email for your college and scholarship applications. You will lose access to the PSD account in June.</p> <p>Use your full, legal name for all college-related documents.</p> <p>Search for scholarships. There's lots of free money you can get your hands on if you are open minded and put in the effort! They say you get 1 scholarship for every 30 you apply to.</p>	<p>Make sure you are scheduled to fulfill your top colleges' entrance requirements (courses, GPA, test scores, etc.).</p> <p>Visit (or make a plan to visit) colleges that interest you. Create/finalize your list of colleges to apply to. Organize materials into separate files by college.</p> <p>Create a college calendar of all admissions, scholarship, and financial aid deadlines. Carefully consider Early Decision or Early Action options. Deadlines start in October!</p> <p>If you plan to compete in Division I or Division II college sports, register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.</p> <p>If needed, register for the fall SAT or ACT tests. Find out the required tests for your college choices— Students sometimes must take the ACT with writing, SAT, or SAT II tests. Find out the cut-off ACT/SAT scores for any automatic scholarships at your colleges (if applicable). Sometimes, just one point can make a difference of thousands of dollars.</p> <p>Get a SAT or ACT fee waiver from your counselor or the College and Career Center if you qualify for free/reduced lunch. This will save you ~\$50/test.</p>	<p>Get started on your applications right away if you plan to apply through an early decision or early action program. Deadlines for early applications tend to fall in October or November.</p> <p>Update your resume with your senior year activities. Your resume will help you complete your applications and essays, and are often needed for teachers/counselors to write letters of recommendation.</p> <p>Take SAT/ACT tests, if needed. Make sure your scores are sent to each of your colleges as well as RMHS so we can put the scores on your transcript.</p> <p><b>September 4 —In State College Fair @ Rocky Mountain High School; 6:00-7:30PM.</b> If you have not yet talked with college representatives, this is a good place to start. Many in-state colleges will visit RMHS in the College &amp; Career Center in the days surrounding this fair. Please plan to see them in that smaller setting if possible.</p> <p><b>September 11 —Senior Planning Night/Financial Aid Night (with P/T Conferences).</b> This is just for seniors &amp; parents; it offers an overview of college admission requirements and the application process. We will also offer a broad overview of financial aid including the types available, how to apply, &amp; critical deadlines.</p> <p><b>College Application Workshops</b> Get help with your applications while enjoying a snack &amp; camaraderie.</p> <p><b>Essay Workshops</b> Start working on your college essays. Write essays that focus on your experiences and make you stand out from the crowd. Get help with your essay at an Essay Workshop.</p> <p><b>College Visits @ RMHS</b> Many colleges visit during this month. The representative who comes to RMHS is usually the person who makes the admission decision about YOU.</p>	<p>Apply to your top colleges—we recommend applying to 2-5 colleges, and using online applications when possible (remember, you can use the computers in the College and Career Center). Meet/beat all deadlines! Most college applications will be completed online through the college's portal.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Be sure to keep track of all your usernames and passwords in a way that is easy to access from school (send info to your school email). Submit applications as early as possible for colleges with rolling deadlines (admissions decisions are made as applications are received).</li> <li>If you are applying under an early decision or early action program, be sure to get all forms in as soon as possible.</li> </ul> <p>Ask your teachers, (or counselors, coaches or employers) for letters of recommendation. Give them plenty of time to meet your deadlines (generally 2-3 weeks). Follow up to ensure that letters of recommendation are sent on time to meet your deadlines.</p> <p>Take SAT/ACT tests, if needed. Make sure your scores are sent to each of your colleges as well as RMHS so we can put the scores on your transcript.</p> <p>Need financial aid? File your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon after October 1st as possible! Priority deadlines vary by college, but at most colleges, the sooner you file, the better chances you have at "discretionary money." You will need tax information from 2018.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Find out if your college requires the CSS Profile (generally at private institutions including University of Denver, Colorado College, USC, Stanford, etc.) and prepare any financial paperwork needed. CSS Profile applications can be filed starting Oct 1st.</li> </ul> <p>Know YOUR Deadlines: Future CU Buffs: Early Action Nov. 15.</p> <p><b>College Application Workshop, Essay Workshops, and College Visits Continue</b> (see September for details).</p> <p><b>October 1 —Out-of-State College Fair @ Poudre High School; 6:00-8:00PM.</b> If you have not yet talked with college representatives, this is a good place to start, and ~ 180 colleges attend. Many colleges will visit RMHS in the days surrounding this fair. Plan to see them in that smaller setting if possible.</p> <p><b>October 15—Colorado Free Application Day</b> most in state, public colleges will offer free applications.</p> <p><b>October 17 —FRCC Senior Day/Application Day@RMHS 12:00 PM</b> This session will include an opportunity to apply to FRCC, apply for the COF, and take any needed assessments. Sign up in the College &amp; Career Center.</p> <p><b>October 17—ASVAB Test@RMHS 12:00 PM</b> Take advantage of the free, no-risk ASVAB test at Rocky. This is used by all military branches for career placement. If you are considering enlisting, or applying for ROTC or a military, this is strongly encouraged. Register in the College &amp; Career Center.</p>	<p>If you have not yet completed your college applications, now is the time</p> <p>Access your colleges' online portals as soon as possible (usually available once you apply)—these have information about your application process, scholarships, housing, financial aid and more. Get into the habit of logging into each college's portal as well as checking your school email.</p> <p>Look for and apply to your college's institutional scholarships as soon as possible. Deadlines often begin in November and December.</p> <p>Work hard at completing your scholarship essays. Proofread them rigorously for mistakes.</p> <p>Follow up with your teachers to ensure that letters of recommendation are sent on time.</p> <p>Know YOUR Deadlines:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future CU Buffs: Early Action Nov. 15.</li> <li>Future CSU Rams: Early Action Deadline Dec. 1</li> </ul> <p><b>Application Days for Specific Colleges</b> Find out on the spot if you are accepted to your college. Check in the College &amp; Career Center to see if the colleges you are considering are coming to RMHS.</p> <p><b>November 18—PSD Financial Aid Night at Fort Collins High School; 6:00 PM.</b> Attend this, with or without parents, for great breakout sessions.</p>



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December	January	February	March	April	May
<p>Scholarships &amp; Financial Aid should be your primary focus now. If you have not yet applied to your colleges, work on that as well.</p> <p>Look for the PSD (Local) Scholarship Packet just before winter break in the College &amp; Career Center. This packet includes ~30 scholarships for Northern Colorado, PSD, or RMHS students only. Although some require attendance at a local college, most can be used anywhere!</p> <p>Many colleges now have scholarship applications available to students who have applied for admissions (even if you haven't heard if you are admitted yet). Often the deadlines to complete the scholarships applications fall mid-January through March, so don't miss out!</p> <p>Search for local, state, and national scholarships through at least one national scholarship website like fastweb.com, scholarships.com or princetonreview.com. Check to see if your college(s) use raise.me for scholarships. (ONLY use FREE scholarship sites)</p>	<p>Contact your colleges to confirm that all application materials have been received if appropriate.</p> <p>Some colleges need your first-semester grades (or mid-year grade report) as part of your application. See Leah Kapral to have your grades sent to colleges that require them (including ALL CommonApp colleges).</p> <p>Know YOUR Deadlines!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future CSU Rams: Your regular admission application deadline is February 1.</li> <li>Future UNC Bears: Apply for admission by Feb. 1 to receive max. consideration for scholarships. Submit the UNC Universal Scholarship Application before March 1.</li> <li>Future Fort Lewis Skyhawks: For automatic scholarships, apply for admission by January 15th.</li> <li>Future CU Buffs: Your <b>final</b> admission deadline is typically January 15th.</li> </ul> <p><b>January TBD, PSD (Local) Scholarship Packet Due</b></p>	<p>Don't get senioritis! Colleges want to see strong second half grades.</p> <p>Know YOUR Deadlines!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Future Buffalos: Typically CU scholarship applications are due around March 1st, but some are earlier. If you apply for scholarships that have a financial need requirement, your FAFSA results must also be on file earlier.</li> <li>Future Wolves: FRCC often has their scholarship packet available at this time and due in March.</li> </ul>	<p>Some financial aid decisions arrive this month. Read everything you receive carefully (including mail, email, and portal announcements), as some of it may require action on your part.</p> <p>Keep any offers of scholarships, even if you do not intend to use them. We will collect that information for the graduation program and for the Scholarship Breakfast.</p>	<p>Most admissions decisions and financial aid award letters have arrived by this month (or information is posted to your online account through each college's portal. Read everything you receive carefully, as some of it may require action on your part.</p> <p>Make a final decision and mail the enrollment form and deposit check to the school you select before May 1 (the enrollment deadline for most schools).</p> <p>Notify each of the schools to which you were accepted that you will not be attending in writing so that your spot can be freed up for another student.</p> <p>On the waiting list? Contact the admissions office and let them know of your continued interest in the college and update them on your spring semester grades and activities</p> <p>If you are attending a college in Colorado, make sure you have registered for the COF (College Opportunity Fund) and have released the funds to your (future) school.</p> <p><b>April 1—Senior/Parent REQUIRED MEETING</b> Required meeting for all students who want to walk at graduation.</p> <p><b>April 22—Scholarship information due to be included in the Graduation program.</b> See your email for details in early April and at the April 1 Senior/Parent meeting.</p>	<p>AP Exams are administered. Make sure your AP score report is sent to your college.</p> <p>Study hard for final exams. Most admissions offers are contingent on your final grades.</p> <p>Thank your counselor, teachers, coaches, and anyone else who wrote you recommendations or otherwise helped with your college applications.</p> <p>Be sure your final transcript gets sent to your college choice—simply complete your senior surveys fully and accurately before check out.</p> <p>If you have earned credit through CSU, CU, or FRCC, be sure to send that college transcript to the college you will be attending. See Ms. Fassnacht for instructions on how to order those college transcripts.</p> <p>If you plan on competing in Division I or Division II college sports, check with Leah to ensure that your final transcript is sent to the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse.</p> <p>Finalize your housing plans.</p> <p>Make sure to sign up for first-year orientation.</p> <p><b>May 1—Commitment/Deposit Deadline (for most 4-year colleges)</b> Most four-year colleges expect students to commit to attend in the fall. Colleges usually require a deposit for classes and a deposit for housing (when applicable). Celebrate with your classmates in the CCC!</p> <p><b>May TBD—Scholarship information due to be included in the Scholarship Breakfast</b> Submit through an online survey. See your email in April for details.</p> <p><b>May 20—Scholarship Breakfast.</b> This free event recognizes students in the <i>Class of 2020</i> who are offered scholarships. You can submit information about any scholarship you have been offered—find details in your email in April.</p> <p><b>May 21—Convocation and Senior Checkout.</b></p> <p><b>May 23—Graduation!</b></p>