



Final Tasks and Decisions for Seniors!

Within a few short months, many of our current seniors will begin their post-secondary education journey as incoming freshmen at a university or college of their choice. Once they have applied, received their admissions decisions, and complete their enrollment process, they will be ready for their summer orientations and Fall move-in day. Ensuring that each step of the enrollment and financial aid process is complete means that your student will have an easy transition into becoming a college student and a more relaxed summer.

Step 1 - Complete Housing/Meal Plan Contract: If your student has not yet committed to which college they wish to attend, they must do this ASAP. The longer they delay making this decision, the fewer options they will have for housing, and some dorms are already at full capacity – which means they may be added to a housing waitlist or have to look for alternative housing options, such as an apartment or commuting. Along with their housing contract, students may need to sign up for a meal plan option for their on-campus food options.

Step 2 - Take Placement Tests. Regardless of what your grades are in any former or current classes, most universities require that their incoming freshmen take placement tests in a variety of core subjects in order to determine which classes to place them into. Math and English are the most commonly required placement tests, though some universities may also require you to take tests in Writing, Reading, or Foreign Language. Most placement tests are online and can be done at your convenience. In some instances, students may submit their ACT scores in lieu of placement tests, but this varies greatly depending on the institution. Check your to-do lists in your student portal for clarification.

Step 3 - Register for Orientation. Once your placement tests are completed, your last step to complete your enrollment is to sign up for on-campus orientation. Orientation helps ease the transition into college and provides you with all of the necessary information you'll need for move-in day, registering for classes, and more! You will also have the opportunity to tour your campus again, meet other incoming students, and become more familiar with campus services. Orientations are usually a mandatory part of enrollment and are conducted over the summer. Depending on the size of the school you will attend, there could be multiple orientations offered throughout the summer that you could register for. Just make sure your placement tests are completed first so you can register for the appropriate classes.



Step 4 - File FAFSA. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the 2022-2023 school year has been open since October of last year and the majority of students have already filed to see if they qualify for any need-based aid, grants, work-study opportunities, or federal student loans. If you have not yet filed your FAFSA, the federal deadline for filing is June 30, 2022. **Remember that FAFSA is not just loans!! Aid received in the form of grants or work-study opportunities is not paid back!**

Step 5 – Set Up New University Email. No matter where you are enrolling, you will have to set up your new student email account. This email is handled directly by the university you will be attending and will be your primary method of communication with your campus, professors, classmates, and more. Think of it like your SJNA student email account.

Step 6 - Sending Final High School Transcript. The final step in enrolling at a college or university is to have your College and Career Counselor submit your official high school transcript, which includes all of your final grades from your senior year. This is available after graduation and must be submitted to your university of choice over the summer as proof that you completed all of your necessary high school courses and have graduated. All that students or their families have to do is to notify the College and Career Counselor of which college they would like the transcript sent to.



Some **students may still be undecided on where to go post-graduation** and may wish to expedite their education and start their careers earlier. Students who enjoy practical skills, and hands-on activities, or want to gain the knowledge and training necessary to enter the workforce or jumpstart their career can consider community colleges, trades schools, enlisting in the military or applying for full-time jobs after graduation. If you have any questions regarding enrolling, final transcripts, applying for jobs, or would like contact information for a military recruiter, please contact the College and Career Counselor, Ms. Catherine Lewis, at clewis@sjnacademies.org.