



Spring College Timeline

Spring is a busy time for students: seniors are still busy submitting college applications, receiving and awaiting admissions decisions, completing financial aid documents, and making the decision on where they want to enroll. And it's not just seniors who need to be diligent in their post-graduation planning – spring is also a pivotal time for juniors as well. The university application cycle for the following school year begins in September, which means that current juniors are only a few months away from submitting their first college applications. In this *College and Career Corner*, we will go over a step-by-step timeline that juniors and seniors should be following this spring to ensure that they are on track, organized, and prepared for the next few months ahead.



Washington University School of Law Library – St. Louis, Missouri

By now, seniors should have the majority of their applications completed and submitted to the colleges of their choice for review. Most seniors still awaiting admissions decisions will hear back before April 1st and will have until May 1st (National College Decision Day) to pick which college they wish to attend and submit a non-refundable enrollment deposit. While there are some exceptions to the enrollment deadline, such as schools with rolling admissions that accept students throughout the year, seniors are going to want to follow these next steps as they complete their last semester of high school and begin preparing for their departure to college.



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SENIOR SPRING COLLEGE TIMELINE:

- **Submit Remaining Applications** – while rolling admissions may not have official deadlines until June or later, you will want to finish all applications by the end of March to ensure you receive an answer before graduation
- **Check Emails** – most colleges require that you set up an applicant portal. These portals notify you of what your next steps are and provide a “to-do” list if any information is missing.
- **Financial Aid** – financial aid deadlines are fast approaching. If you have not done so already, complete your FAFSA to see if you qualify for need-based aid and apply for scholarships for merit-based awards.
- **Choose Your College and Enroll** – Once you have received all of your admissions decisions, compare all of your acceptances and make decisions. Tour each college, if you have not already, that you were accepted to and compare any financial aid offers and incentives. Then, it's decision time!

JUNIOR SPRING COLLEGE TIMELINE:

- **Start Requesting Letters of Recommendation** - even though you will not need teacher recommendations until you submit applications in the fall, it is a good idea to touch base with teachers now and let them know that you are considering asking them for a reference.
- **Refine Your List of Colleges** - create a list of 10 colleges or universities you would like to apply to. Balance your list with a combination of likely (70% acceptance and above), possible (40%-60% acceptance rates), reach (20-30% acceptance rates), and high reach (below 20% acceptance rates) universities.
- **Research Application Deadlines and Requirements** - in College and Career Planning, students learn what factors are the most important to consider when looking for universities to consider and how to find information about important deadlines to mark, and what documents and requirements they will need to complete their applications.
- **Look for Scholarships** - it is never too early to start looking for financial aid opportunities and marking down scholarships that you are eligible for and their deadlines can help keep you on track and organized for the fall. There are even scholarships you can apply for during your Junior year!
- **Begin filling out Common App and SCOIR** - even though application portals will not open until September, Juniors can start filling out their applications and organizing their college plans and student profile in SCOIR. College and Career Planning Students will begin work on their Common Application once we return from spring break.

If you have any questions or would like help with your college applications or admissions process, please visit the College and Career Counselor, Ms. Catherine Lewis, in room 116 or reach out via email at clewis@sjnacademies.org or call 262-646-7283.