



Our Lady of the Elms High School

College Planning Guide

Senior Year

[Take off running and don't stop!]

- _____ Focus on academics. Colleges will track your progress throughout your senior year...until graduation.
- _____ Consider taking/re-taking the ACT/SAT.
- _____ Schedule meetings in advance with your college counselor for your college letter of recommendation.
- _____ Request teacher letter(s) of recommendation in advance.
- _____ Consider Early Action and Early Decision opportunities/commitments.
- _____ Finalize list of colleges, staying ahead of application deadlines.
- _____ Write and refine your college essay(s)/supplemental essay(s), and possible personal statement.
- _____ Update resume.
- _____ Send your test scores to your colleges directly from ACT and College Board.
- _____ Begin sending applications with help from the College Counselor.
- _____ Schedule as early as September on Naviance to meet with college representatives who visit the Elms.
- _____ Attend fall college fairs.
- _____ Continue to visit and interview at colleges.
- _____ Take the ASVAB (administered in October to all Elms seniors) to determine and match academic strengths, career interests, and college majors.
- _____ Attend the evening Financial Aid program in September.
- _____ Determine if the CSS Profile from the College Board is required for selective colleges in addition to the FAFSA.

- _____ Complete the FAFSA, which becomes available October 1, and review its SAR (Student Aid Report) for accuracy. Be prepared for possible requests for verification.
- _____ Continuously search and apply for additional scholarships, including local, national, private, and college sources.
- _____ Keep your counselor informed of all college admission and scholarship offers.
- _____ Make final visits to colleges.
- _____ Compare admission options and financial aid packages.
- _____ Review curricula and the faculty who will be teaching you.
- _____ Make final college decision by May 1st and secure your place with your deposit(s).
- _____ Do well on the AP exams.
- _____ Keep grades strong and behavior exemplary as your college admission and scholarships can be rescinded.
- _____ Register for college orientation and remember to stay in touch. You will be missed!
- _____ Make the most of every opportunity: you've earned it.