

The College Planning Timeline

Fall

- Meet with your counselor. Review your senior courses. Have you met all of the requirements for the schools you are interested in? Is your schedule challenging? Should you add courses?
- Create a final list of five to seven colleges to which you will apply. Transfer colleges and universities to your list of “colleges I’m applying to” page in Naviance.
- Ask teachers for recommendations. Ask early and give your teachers a written list of the schools to which you are applying. Provide the teachers with instructions on sending your letter. Give them at least two weeks time to prepare this letter.
- Revise, polish and complete your essay. Get assistance in proofreading your essay.
- Attend a college fair, and ask specific questions of the schools that you are interested in
- Begin applying, the sooner the better. Decide if you want to apply EA or ED to any college. Many highly competitive schools do not accept applications after given dates. Applications may be due in mid-November.
- Request transcripts to be sent to all colleges and universities you are applying to
- If you are a male student, you must register for the selective service by the time you turn 18 in order to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Take or retake standardized tests, if necessary.
- You and your parents should gather income tax information so you can complete the FAFSA as soon as possible in January or February. See if the schools you are applying to require the PROFILE.
- Start looking for scholarships and financial aid information. This information is available from online sources, as well as from the financial aid offices at all campuses, and in the post-grad center at Centaurus High School.
- Make plans for taking the Test of English as a Foreign Language, if necessary.
- Attend presentations by university representatives coming to CHS.

December

- Talk with friends who are home from college to get their impressions of their campus. Try to understand whether you share their likes and dislikes.
- If you did not qualify for early admission or early decision at the campus of your choice, submit regular decision (RD) or rolling admissions (RA) applications.
- Send thank you notes to teachers, counselors and others who helped you by giving advice or by writing letters of recommendations.
- The University of Colorado, and Colorado State University have early deadlines of December 1st.

Spring

- Request mid-year transcripts to be sent to schools you have applied to
- Complete the FAFSA – this can be done as early as January 1, but should not be done later than March 1.
- Keep your grades up. Final transcripts will be sent to the school you decide to attend.
- If possible, try to visit the college of your choice before committing yourself.
- After you have been accepted at a college of your choice:
 - Update your Naviance account with your acceptance, and your decision.
 - Confirm your intent to enroll at the college of your choice. Make sure you check each individual school’s deadlines and requirements, and adhere strictly to them.
 - Notify other colleges that you do not plan to attend their campus so they can free up space for other students.
 - Mail in your application for campus housing, if you plan to live on campus. Most campus living accommodations are in high demand.
 - Send in all required deposits.
 - Notify your counselor of your decision to attend a university.
- Watch for announcements to attend spring and summer orientation and registration programs. These programs provide you with orientation activities, placement exams, meetings with academic advisers, and course selection advisement.
- Make sure you have received forms for requesting housing, campus-based, scholarship and financial aid, health insurance, food services, and summer orientation.
- Make your final choice and notify school(s) no later than May 1.
- Send final transcripts to the school you are attending.
- Talk to the college or university financial aid office if your financial situation changed in such a way as to allow you qualify for additional financial aid, you may qualify for reassessment.