

# Roadmap to College

## Exploration

- Set up your Naviance account.
- Explore colleges and majors online using Naviance and online tools on our website.
  - Visit those schools if possible, if not possible research thoroughly.
  - Call, email or set up a meeting to talk with an admissions rep for the schools you are most interested in.

## Financing College

- If you have not already done so, begin a conversation with your parents about finances available for college. Use some of the many tools available to help with the conversation (<https://www.ohiohighered.org/students/pay-for-college>).
- Begin looking for scholarships. Do searches on the web. Set up accounts on one of the scholarship databases on the counseling office website (<http://www.lickingvalley.k12.oh.us/SeniorInformation.aspx>).

## Testing

If you have not already taken the ACT and SAT, register for the summer/fall tests.

- ACT- [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)
- SAT- [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

## Preparing to Apply

- Complete your service learning requirement and turn it in! 😊
- Create a resume for college and scholarship applications.
- Make sure you are taking advantage of opportunities at school and in the community to build your resume. Keep a record of any activities, leadership roles, awards and/or work you are doing outside of the classroom. This will be very helpful when you are writing essays and asking for letters of recommendation.
- Register for rigorous coursework your senior year. (This WILL be a consideration of college admissions when you apply!)
- Look at the Diploma with Honors requirements to make certain your senior schedule meets the requirements if you are interested.
- Thoughtfully determine whether you should take Journey to College your senior year.
- Start your college list of schools to which you might apply.
- Attend the College Credit Plus/Advanced Placement meeting or watch the video and apply for CCP if interested.
- Ask the teacher(s) you would like to write you letters of recommendation if they are willing.

## **Senior Year Timeline**

### **First Day of School**

- Your counselor should be able to ask you to name 3-5 colleges on your college list and you should have an answer. This does not have to be final but a great place to start!

### **All year**

- Use your Naviance account to explore college, track applications and communicate with the counseling office and your teachers.
- Check the counseling office website for scholarships at least once a week.
- Fill out scholarship applications.
- Keep track of all scholarships you earn to notify the counseling office at the end of the year.
- Update your college list with schools you are applying to, acceptances, waitlists, and denials.
- Keep your grades up – colleges look at your senior year schedule and grades!

### **September/October**

- Take/Retake the SAT or ACT to try for higher scores.
- Meet with college representatives when they visit Licking Valley.
- Fill out college and scholarship applications.
- Watch Senior College Planning presentation and Financial Aid presentation with your parents.
- File the FAFSA starting October 1.

### **November**

- Have college applications turned in by Thanksgiving (Some are earlier, like OSU-Columbus!)

### **December**

- Retake the SAT or ACT if you want to try for higher scores – last chance! (May be too late for some schools.)

### **January - May**

- Apply for scholarships!!!!
- Compare the colleges you were accepted to – academics, your financial aid package, whether you think it is a good fit for you, etc.
- Visit each school again if you are undecided. Try to attend a class or schedule an overnight trip if possible.

## **May**

- May 1<sup>st</sup> – National deadline for deciding which school you are attending. Most schools ask for a deposit by this date.
- Complete your senior survey. This lets the counseling office know what scholarships you have received and which college you are attending so we can send your final transcript.
- Make sure your college list is updated with all acceptances and that you have told your school counselor which school you will be attending on your senior survey. This is the information your counselor will use when sending final transcripts in the summer.
- Send thank you notes to teachers who have written letters of recommendation for you and to any groups or organizations who gave you scholarships.
- Send a letter to colleges that you were accepted to but will not be attending. Thank them for admitting you and tell them that you have decided not to attend.
- GRADUATION!

## **June**

- When final grades for all graduates are received from CCP partner colleges, C-TEC, online schools, etc., we will finalize class rank and send final transcripts to the college you noted on your senior survey and to your house. This typically happens in mid-June.