



Senior Year College Road Map



August

Sign up for text alerts.

Sign up for free college-planning reminders at cfww.com.

Research and apply for scholarships.

There are thousands of scholarships available – and often, few students apply! Don't leave money on the table. Apply for as many scholarships as possible. Get started at cfww.com.

Register and study for the ACT/SAT.

You probably already took the SAT your junior year. But if your score wasn't as high as you'd like, you can take it again or try the ACT instead. Map out a plan and start studying.



September

Plan your college visits.

It's crunch time – you need to decide on a college soon! Schedule visits to any campus you're still considering and reach out to their admissions offices for more info.

Meet with your high school counselor.

Let your counselor know about the colleges that you are considering and ask for advice. If you're unable to pay college application fees, ask how to apply for a fee waiver.



October

Submit at least two college applications.

Students who apply to more than one school are more likely to attend college and succeed. Researchers recommend applying to at least four colleges. Students who apply early are also more likely to qualify for scholarships.

Complete the FAFSA.

The FAFSA is *the* most important financial aid form you will complete. By filling out this one form, you'll be considered for many different sources of financial aid. Complete it early to make sure you're at the top of the list!



November through January

Weigh the pros and cons.

Once you've submitted your college applications and your FAFSA, you'll start getting lots of information about college and financial aid opportunities. Begin narrowing your options by making a list of the pros and cons for each college or program to which you've been admitted. Apply for state financial aid by visiting collegeforwv.com.



February

Make a decision.

Work with the admissions office of your first-choice college to complete your enrollment paperwork. Call the financial aid office at the college and work with them to make sure you are able to cover the costs of attending this school. You should also find out the absolute latest date that you could enroll at your second- and third-choice colleges. If you change your mind about your first-choice, it's important to know what options remain.

Read College 101.

Ask your counselor for a copy of CFWV's College 101 guide or visit cfwv.com and click on the "college student" link to download a copy. Begin following the steps outlined in the guide to enroll in college, register for housing, and prepare for life on campus.



March

Decide on housing.

Are you going to live on campus, rent a place off-campus, or commute? Does your college have rules about where you can live your first year? Talk with your admissions counselor about your housing options. Find out how to register for housing if you're planning on staying on campus.

Register for orientation.

If you haven't already, register for a summer orientation session. During orientation, you'll learn all about your new school, register for classes, and take care of final details.



April - August

Stay on track — and in touch!

Over the summer, your college will send you emails with important info. Be sure to check your email often and follow their instructions. If you need help, ask questions!



College Planning

Financial Aid Road Map

West Virginia ranks among the top states for providing financial aid for students. In fact, most West Virginia students receive financial aid to help pay for college. But to be eligible, you need to stay on top of application deadlines. Follow this roadmap to make sure you get the most money possible to help pay for your education.



April (Junior Year)

Complete your income tax returns.

You are not required to have completed your tax returns in order to submit the FAFSA, but much of the information required is the same. You also can save time by using the IRS Data Retrieval Tool which automatically takes information from your tax return and fills in the the FAFSA form. If you are completing the 2022-2023 FAFSA (which opens October 1, 2021), use your 2020 tax returns.



September

Sign up for text alerts.

Sign up to receive free financial aid reminders at cfwv.com.

Research and apply for scholarships.

Apply for as many scholarships as possible. Get started by researching programs at cfwv.com. Create a calendar of application deadlines. Set a goal and get to work. Can you apply for one a day? One a week?



October

Complete the FAFSA.

The FAFSA is the most important financial aid form you will complete. By filling out this one form, you'll be considered for many different sources of financial aid. When you complete the FAFSA, you are also applying for the WV Higher Education Grant. The WV Higher Education Grant is our state's need-based grant program and the FAFSA is the only application needed to apply. You can complete the FAFSA beginning October 1 of the year before you enroll in college. So if you are going to college in August of 2022, you can complete the FAFSA in October 2021. Complete it early to make sure you're at the top of the list! To find a free FAFSA workshop in your area, visit cfwv.com.



November

Submit your scholarship applications.

Apply for as many scholarships as possible before Thanksgiving. This includes the WV PROMISE Scholarship, the WV Invests Grant program, and other state programs. For a full list of scholarships and grants, visit cfwv.com.



December through March

Look for info from your college.

A few weeks after you've filed your FAFSA, your college, state, and federal governments will send you information on the amount of financial aid for which you qualify. Keep an eye out for communication from your college via mail and email. Make sure you respond to any requests for additional information in a timely manner. If you have questions or need financial advice, set up a meeting with your college admissions or financial aid counselor.

Keep applying for scholarships.

There are many "late" and "last minute" scholarship programs. Keep searching for these opportunities and apply for as many as you can!



April

Get those test scores in!

If you haven't yet earned a high enough SAT or ACT score to qualify for the PROMISE Scholarship, sign up to take the tests one more time to see if you can hit the mark! Talk to your counselor or text a cfwv.com advisor for information on upcoming test dates and ways to get free test prep help. Visit cfwv.com to sign up for text message counseling.



May through August

Pay your bills.

Make sure you've paid any required deposits, signed off on any financial aid dollars you plan to use, and paid your tuition bills. If you have questions (and you will!), be sure to reach out to your admissions or financial aid counselors. That's what they're there for!