

SENIOR TIMELINE



SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR

- Take the ACT/SAT over the summer. A growing number of colleges and universities no longer require ACT/SAT scores, so check your prospective institutions' requirements. Visit [ACT.org](https://www.act.org) or [SAT.org](https://www.collegeboard.org/sat) to learn more.
- Apply for scholarships now and throughout your senior year. [UCanGo2.org](https://www.ucango2.org) has scholarships listed by deadline date and category, plus helpful resources for preparing and tracking scholarship applications.
- Research colleges and visit campuses you're interested in. Many colleges now offer virtual tours. Check out [OKcollegestart.org](https://www.okcollegestart.org) for a list of Oklahoma schools that provide online campus tours.
- Review your senior schedule to make sure you'll meet graduation requirements and that the classes you'll be taking will improve your chances of college admission.
- Create your college application resume and ask for letters of recommendation. For help with your resume, try the Resume Builder at [OKcollegestart.org](https://www.okcollegestart.org).

SEPTEMBER

- Visit [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) to learn about resources to help you prepare and pay for college.
- Visit college campuses you're interested in or check for virtual tours.
- Start narrowing down prospective college(s) and note application and financial aid deadlines.
- Create an account at [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) in preparation to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov).
- Draft an application essay.

OCTOBER

- Keep studying and maintain good grades. Review our [Perfect 10 Study Habits Guide](#).
- Stay involved in community service and extracurricular activities, which can strengthen scholarship and college applications.
- Finalize your list of potential colleges.

NOVEMBER

- Some colleges have application deadlines in November, so confirm your college choices and complete all applications. Visit [OKcollegestart.org](https://www.okcollegestart.org) to learn more about the colleges you may be interested in attending.
- If you haven't already, create your [StudentAid.gov](https://studentaid.gov) account in preparation to complete the FAFSA in December.
- Save money for college expenses and continue to apply for scholarships.
- Make sure official test scores have been sent to prospective colleges.

DECEMBER

- Complete the FAFSA at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov). The 2025-26 FAFSA application is set to become available on December 1.
- Don't forget! FAFSA completion for high school seniors is now a graduation requirement for Oklahoma public high schools.
- Watch for a [FAFSA Submission Summary](#), which you'll receive after submitting the FAFSA.
- Review your first-semester grades and second-semester schedule to ensure you're taking the courses you need to graduate. Check with your high school counselor if you have questions.
- Use the holiday break to apply for more college scholarships!
- Colleges will require your high school transcript, so find out your school's process for submission.



JANUARY

- Prepare to work hard during your last semester to make good grades and graduate as planned.
- Ask your high school counselor to send your transcript to the colleges to which you applied.
- Complete your [FAFSA](#) if you haven't already.
- Continue to apply for college scholarships.

FEBRUARY

- Review your progress on the Individual Career Academic Plan (ICAP) to see if you're missing any requirements.
- Make an appointment with your high school counselor to discuss the next steps in your college planning journey.
- Just a reminder ... if you haven't already, complete your [FAFSA!](#)
- Continue to apply for college scholarships.

MARCH

- Watch for financial aid offers from the colleges to which you've applied. These offers will tell you how much financial aid the school can provide.
- Contact the financial aid office at your college(s) of interest if you have any questions about the [financial aid](#) you may be offered.
- Continue to apply for college scholarships.
- Finalize your college decision, if you haven't already.
- Once you decide which college you'll attend, notify the campus of your commitment and follow all instructions you receive to prepare for enrollment.

APRIL

- Verify with your high school counselor that you're on schedule to graduate next month.
- Attend all senior class meetings to stay informed about upcoming events.
- Continue to apply for college scholarships.

MAY

- Register for your fall college courses (and keep applying for college scholarships).
- Watch for deadlines at your chosen college for housing, parking, financial aid, and any other school-related services.
- Research and make housing arrangements if you'll be living on- or off-campus.
- Request final transcripts to be sent to your college of choice.

SUMMER BEFORE COLLEGE

- Find a part-time job and save as much money as possible this summer.
- Check your email regularly for important information from your college.
- Send thank-you notes to those who wrote letters of recommendation, reviewed scholarship and college essays, and helped you gain admission or earn a scholarship.
- Verify your move-in date, if needed, and the time and location for Freshman Orientation.
- Find out when and where you can get textbooks. Some online services may offer textbooks at a cheaper price. Do your research.
- Coordinate with the financial aid office to identify campus jobs (and keep applying for college scholarships).
- If you're going to a school in another city, ask friends or family members to help you move.

ASISTENCIA EN ESPAÑOL

Múltiples colaboradores están disponibles para ayudar a los estudiantes y padres en español a través de la línea de información para estudiantes de los Regentes del Estado, a la que las familias pueden llegar al 800.858.1840 (405.25.9239 en Oklahoma City) o studentinfo@osrhe.edu.