

Stafford Soccer - College Planning Guide

Preparation for College



12th Grade

FALL

1. Meet with your guidance counselor regarding college selections and be sure to keep your guidance counselor informed about college decisions.
2. Make decisions! Which colleges are going to apply to? Narrow your search to 3 – 5 colleges.
3. Take SAT/ACT again if need be
4. Start the application process for your top college selections
5. Write college essays (check college websites for essay requirements).
6. Submit Secondary School Report form from your college application(s) and Transcript Release forms to your guidance counselor for each college you are applying.
7. Make arrangements for final visits to colleges, if necessary.
8. Some colleges, as well as some college majors, require an admission interview. Be organized -make sure that you have met all the requirements for the interview.
9. Search for and complete scholarship applications.
10. Notify your guidance counselor when you receive any Early Decision, Early Action or Regular Decision offers of admission.

WINTER

1. Get financial aid forms: Federal Application Free Student Aid (FAFSA), which is required by all colleges (available in December) if you want to be eligible for financial aid. Parents should complete the FAFSA as soon as possible, but not before January
1. Meet all other college financial aid deadlines.
2. Midyear grades will automatically be sent to all colleges and universities to which you have applied.
3. Send an update to colleges of any significant new activities, accomplishments, or changes in circumstances.
4. Read your respective Financial Aid Handbook in your county (usually distributed to seniors in February) for scholarship opportunities.

SPRING

1. As your decision letters arrive, inform your counselor and continue to think about your options.
2. Review financial aid awards. Speak with the college financial aid officer should questions arise.
3. Colleges may revoke a previous offer of admission from any student who is found to have sent tuition deposits to more than one college.

4. Write schools if you will not accept their offer of admission.
5. Complete housing and health forms.
6. If you are placed on a waiting list, speak immediately with your counselor about follow-up procedures.
7. Continue to apply for national and local scholarships.
8. BE REALISTIC...your second choice school may be your first choice!

APRIL 15th: The date all colleges will let you know their decision.

MAY 1st: Candidates Reply Date – The date by which you MUST let colleges know your decision. Also, the date by which a deposit must be at the college you will attend.