

# College Planning Checklist

Sophomore				Junior				Senior			
Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter	Spring
<b>DISCOVER</b>											
<b>PREPARE</b>											
						<b>SELECT</b>					
								<b>APPLY</b>			
									<b>DECIDE</b>		
								<b>PAY</b>			

## [DISCOVER] YOUR INTERESTS, ABILITIES AND VALUES

- Participate in summer jobs, internships and special enrichment programs.
- Find volunteer and community service opportunities.
- Complete online career surveys and self-assessments to find suitable majors, careers and colleges.
  - o [www.CollegeinColorado.org](http://www.CollegeinColorado.org) >Click Create an Account >Click Choices career Planner
- Shadow someone who has a job that interests you.

## [PREPARE] FOR COLLEGE ADMISSIONS

- Attend the **Soph/Junior College & Career Planning Night** in late January/early February.
- Attend your **Registration Meeting** with your counselor during February/March.
- Work on study & organizational skills, time & stress management, and test & note taking skills.
  - o [www.educationplanner.com](http://www.educationplanner.com)
- Develop a college prep curriculum with your counselor and teachers and maintain good grades.
- College Entrance Tests (**Rocky's CEEB Code is 060588**)
  - o Research which test scores are required by the colleges that interest you.
  - o Practice Tests
    - PLAN (for sophomores to prep for ACT and assess career possibilities)
      - All sophomores take the Plan on October 30
    - PSAT (for sophomores/juniors to prep for SAT and qualify as National Merit Scholar)
      - Register before **Oct. 8<sup>th</sup>** to take **Oct 15<sup>th</sup>** test at Rocky
    - See your counselor for other scheduled practice ACT and SAT tests.
  - o ACT (juniors and seniors)
    - Begin preparing at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) in January of your junior year.
    - All juniors will take the ACT at Rocky on **April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009**.
    - Register at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) to retake the ACT in the summer/fall of senior year.
  - o SAT (juniors and seniors)
    - Find out if your college requires the SAT or SAT Subject Tests for admission.
    - Prepare and register at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).
- College Athletics & NCAA Clearinghouse
  - o Junior Year
    - Take the ACT. (State or National Test Date)
    - Visit [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) to:
      - Register if there is a possibility you may participate in college athletics.
      - Confirm that you are taking the approved NCAA classes.
    - Ask **Mrs. Mulnix** to send a transcript to the NCAA in May.
  - o Senior Year
    - Take the ACT or SAT in the fall to improve your scores.
    - Ask **Mrs. Mulnix** to send a transcript to the NCAA in May.

## [SELECT] COLLEGES

- Visit your counselor and share your plans with Mrs. Mulnix
- Visit **Mrs. Mulnix** in the College & Career Center to learn about resources.
- Research online for "good-fit" colleges and review admission requirements.
- NAVIANCE: <http://connection.naviance.com/rockymountain>  
<http://connection.naviance.com/rockymountain> (students--put in your PIV code, parents--put in your student's PIV code, followed by M or D for Mom or Dad )

- CollegeinColorado: [www.CollegeinColorado.org](http://www.CollegeinColorado.org)
- [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com) & [www.princetonreview.com](http://www.princetonreview.com).
- Visit College Admission Representatives
  - Visit with them at Rocky. (Mrs. Mulnix and the NAVIANCE website have visit days and times)
  - Call colleges to schedule a campus visit.
  - Attend the **In-State College Fair** on **September 17, 2008** at Rocky.
  - Attend the **Out-Of-State College Fair** on **September 30, 2008** at Poudre High.
  - Use college evaluation sheets in College Planning Guide.

## [APPLY] TO COLLEGE

- Attend your **Senior Meeting** with your counselor during September of your senior year.
- Attend the **Senior Planning Night** on **September 10, 2008** at Rocky.
- Check **DEADLINES!** Student Services recommends submitting applications by **October 31<sup>st</sup>**.
- Apply Online**
  - Use your NAVIANCE account or visit college websites for links to online applications.
  - Tip #1: Organize paperwork by making a folder for each college with to-do list on the front.
  - Tip #2: Print a copy of your first application so you can use it to fill in information on others.
    - **Create a profile and open an application**
- Write Essay**
  - Find out if the schools you're applying to require an essay.
  - Get essay help from College Guide, English teachers, and counselor.
- Letters of Recommendation**
  - Find out if the schools you're applying to require letters.
    - Pickup an **Academic Profile** or create a **Resume** and give it to your counselor.
    - Give letter writer a copy of your **Academic Profile/Resume** and a stamped envelope.
    - Ask them to give a COPY to **Leah Kapral** in Student Services and THANK them.
- Submit Application Paperwork** (counselor evaluation, essays, letters of recommendation)
  - Fill out and give **Transcript Request Form** to **Leah Kapral** with \$3/transcript.
- Interview**
  - Find out if the schools you're applying to interview
  - See your counselor and Mrs. Mulnix for interview tips and preparation.

## [DECIDE] WHICH COLLEGE IS RIGHT FOR YOU

- Consider what's important: location, cost, academics, activities, size, and program length?
- Visit the campus a second time if necessary.
- Compare financial aid packages and send your non-refundable deposit.

## [PAY] WITH FINANCIAL AID, SCHOLARSHIPS AND FAFSA

- Begin searching for scholarships
  - [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) & [www.wiredscholar.com](http://www.wiredscholar.com)
  - NAVIANCE (visit Scholarship List)
  - **Local Scholarship Packet** from **Mrs. Mulnix** in the College & Career Center
    - Pick up in mid-January and return in mid-February of your senior year.
  - College to which you've applied
- Attend the **Financial Aid Night** on **December 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008** at Rocky Mountain High School.
- Register for **Colorado Opportunity Fund** at [www.collegeincolorado.org](http://www.collegeincolorado.org) if attending In-State.
- Checkout the **Western Undergraduate Exchange** (WUE) for lower out-of-state tuition options.
- FAFSA (Federal Application For Student Aid)
  - Register for your FAFSA PIN at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov). (you will use this PIN each year).
  - Encourage your parents to complete their income taxes early in order to apply for FAFSA.
  - Fill out FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) after January 1<sup>st</sup>.