



COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINES: SENIORS

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AUGUST

- Confirm you have all the credits you need to graduate! CCSD Graduation Requirements.
- Resolve to keep your grades up. Colleges look at cumulative GPA *and* improvement. Many colleges require or will ask you to send your 7th semester (1st semester senior year) grades.
- Schedule your senior conference (required). Complete your *Senior Questionnaire* on *Naviance* and ask a parent to complete the *Parent Questionnaire*.
- Learn the **Cherry Creek High School CEEB code: 060-515**, it is required for college applications.
- Students attend *Creek 401 Senior Assembly* (required). Parents attend *College 401 Senior Parent Night*.
- Check college testing requirements. If needed, register to retake the ACT, SAT or SAT Subject Tests.
- Get in the habit of checking your Creek Mail, Naviance and Wednesday College E-mail Blasts. **This is how Post Grad communicates with students about important scholarships, college visits and senior announcements!**
- Check Naviance for upcoming college visits - ongoing throughout the school year.
- Print out *CCHS College Planning Schedule*.

SEPTEMBER

- Narrow down your list of schools to your 5 first choice schools.
- Decide if you will be applying to any schools under an *Early Action* (non-binding) or *Early Decision* (binding) plan. Check deadlines and application requirements!
- Research scholarships, their application requirements and deadlines.
- Check college financial aid and scholarship websites. Do they require **FAFSA** forms and/or **CSS Profile**? Is there a "Priority Deadline" for in-house scholarship consideration.
- Work on application essay(s). Essay help is available in Post Grad.
- Attend 5th Period *College Counseling Workshops* in the Post Grad Center offered September - December.
- Attend National College Fair and Workshops happening in September. Check the Post Grad Website at *CCHSPostgrad.com*
- Submit requests for transcripts and letters of recommendation to the Post Grad Center at least **15 working days** prior to the college's application deadline. Deadlines are posted online and in the Post Grad Center.
- Check individual college websites, the *Common Application* or Coalition Application, to confirm application requirements: transcripts, essays, letter(s) of recommendation, counselor/teacher forms, deadlines, and standardized testing requirements.
- Finalize your list of schools to which you apply.

OCTOBER

- Check to see if your teacher letter(s) of recommendation has been submitted with Post Grad. Teachers have until **October 1** to upload their letters, give them time!
- Submit the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** (fafsa.ed.gov) online beginning as early as **October 1**.
- Finalize college and scholarship essay(s) for *Early Action* (non-binding) and *Early Decision* (binding) deadlines. Essay help is available in the Post Grad Center.
- Visit college campuses when possible.
- If you haven't already done so, register for the *College Opportunity Fund* (COF). <https://cof.college-assist.org>
- Contact **ACT** or **College Board** to officially send test scores to the colleges where you apply. Link your state and national accounts.
- Visit www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov. (provides an early estimate of your eligibility for federal student aid).
- Visit Net Price Calculator Center at collegecost.ed.gov for additional financial aid information on the top 3 colleges where you plan to apply.

NOVEMBER

- Finalize college applications and college/scholarship essays for December application deadlines. The Cherry Creek High School CEEB code is **060-515**.
- Complete in-state college applications. (CU Boulder and CSU Fort Collins *Early action* deadlines are **11/15** and **12/01**). All other public in-state colleges offer rolling admissions where applications are reviewed and applicants notified of their admission decision within weeks of their submitted application.
- *Early Action* and *Early Decision* applicants - begin checking your email and “applied student” portals regularly for updates from college admissions departments regarding your application status.
- **Write thank you notes to teachers who have written your letters of recommendation.**

DECEMBER

- Finalize applications and college/scholarship essay(s) for January application deadlines.
- If you were admitted to a college under an ED - *Early Decision* (binding) plan, notify all other colleges you applied to and withdraw those applications.

JANUARY

- Complete a final check of your classes and credits for graduation. See your counselor with any questions.
- Request your 7th semester transcript(s), ‘Midyears’, to be submitted to your colleges that require or request them. Midyear transcripts will be sent out the 3rd week of January.
- Complete applications with February and March deadlines.

FEBRUARY

- Check your college application accounts often and always open emails from schools you have applied to! This may be the **ONLY** way you know if your application is complete.
- Begin reporting scholarship awards to the Post Grad Center.
- Register for the *College Opportunity Fund (COF)* This is money to reduce the cost of attending college in Colorado. **All students are eligible!** <https://cof.college-assist.org>

MARCH

- Keep your grades up. Colleges can and have rescinded offers of admission for a significant drop in grades or attendance.
- Visit colleges over spring break.

APRIL

- Expect to hear from colleges regarding admissions decisions by **April 1**.
- If a college offers you a place on their “waitlist” you can accept or deny this offer. Be sure you accept AND make a deposit at a college that has accepted you, if you plan to attend.
- Evaluate financial aid packages from schools that have admitted you.
- **Senior Day** - Report scholarships, write your plans on the PG windows, start senior check-out, complete three required graduation surveys.

MAY

- **May 1 is the National Candidate Reply Date.** You **MUST** let colleges know if you are attending by this date or your spot will be given away.
- Take **AP exams** and arrange with *College Board* to have your score(s) sent to the college you are attending.