



COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE: SENIORS

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AUGUST

- Confirm that you have all the credits you need to graduate! See [CCSD Graduation Requirements](#) below.
- 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* in Naviance and ask a parent/guardian 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 *Creek 401 Senior Parent Night*.
- Check college testing requirements. If needed, register to retake the ACT or SAT.
- Get in the habit of checking your Creek Mail, Naviance and Monday 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—these are ongoing through the school year.
- Have a family talk about financing college. Check out [Managing College Costs](#) and [College Net Price Calculator](#).
- Print out the *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—see scholarship wall, Naviance and [post grad website](#).
- 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 at the Writing Center in Post Grad.
- Attend 5th Period **College Counseling Workshops** in the Post Grad Center offered September - December.
- 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 will apply.

Course Requirements for Graduation in Cherry Creek

Board Policy IKF

A minimum of 22 units of credit shall be necessary for high school graduation.

| | |
|------------------------------------|------------------|
| English/Language Arts | 4.0 units |
| Mathematics | 3.0 units |
| Science | 3.0 units |
| Social Studies* | 3.0 units |
| Physical Education | 1.5 units |
| Health | 0.5 units |
| Fine/Practical Arts | 1.5 units |
| Elective Offerings | 5.5 units |

**Within the 3.0 required credits of Social Studies, 1.0 credit must be a full year of U.S. History and .5 semester of Civics/ Government.*

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 in Naviance. Give them time!
- Finalize college and scholarship essay(s) for **Early Action** (non-binding) and **Early Decision** (binding) deadlines. Essay help is available at the Writing Center in Post Grad. Stop by to check times.
- Visit college campuses when possible.
- If you haven’t already done so, register for the [College Opportunity Fund](#) (COF).
- Contact [ACT](#) or [College Board](#) to officially send test scores to the colleges where you apply. Link your state and national accounts.
- Visit the [Net Price Calculator Center](#) at collegecost.ed.gov for additional financial aid information on the top 3 colleges where you plan to apply.

CONTINUES ON OTHER SIDE



COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE: SENIORS *continued from other side*

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** deadline is **11/15**). 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.
- Attend National College Fair and Workshops happening in November. See the Post Grad Website at www.CCHSPostgrad.com
- **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

- Submit the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** (fafsa.ed.gov) online beginning as early as **December 1**.
- 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/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.
- Remember to register for the [College Opportunity Fund \(COF\)](#) This is money to reduce the cost of attending college in Colorado. **All students are eligible!**

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 **early April**.
- 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 in Post Grad-** Report scholarships, write your plans on the PG windows, pin the map, 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.

College & Career Ready Benchmarks for Graduation in Cherry Creek and all Other Colorado Schools

Board Policy IKF

In addition to required coursework, all students must demonstrate competency in Math and English through one area below.

| Competency Menu | English | Math |
|------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Next Generation Accuplacer | 241 on Reading or 236 on writing | 255 on AR or 230 on QAS |
| Classic Accuplacer | 62 Reading Comp. or 70 Sentence Skills | 61 on Elementary Algebra |
| ACT | 18 | 19 |
| ACT WorkKeys | Bronze or higher | Bronze or higher |
| Advanced Placement | 2 or higher | 2 or higher |
| ASVAB | 31 st Percentile | 31 st Percentile |
| Concurrent Enrollment | Passing Grade | Passing Grade |
| IB | 4 or higher | 4 or higher |
| SAT (for 2024-2026 only) | 470 | 480 |
| District Capstone | Secondary Literacy Assessment | Common Assessment Portfolio |
| Industry Certificate | Individualized | Individualized |
| Performance Based Assessment (PBA) | State-wide scoring criteria | State-wide scoring criteria |