

Roadmap



College and Career Counseling | 12th Grade

So, here you are at last! This is a big and exciting year for you as you will be submitting your college applications and waiting with anticipation for the college in which you will land next fall. This guide will help you to stay organized and make the best of your senior year.

What to do throughout all four years

Keep your grades up and aim at your personal best.

Yes, senior year grades are important! Colleges will know what courses you selected for your senior year and may even see your first quarter or semester grades. So, it is important to keep the rigor and performance at its best. Maintaining a high performance or improving your grades demonstrates your readiness for college.

Stay Connected with your counselor.

This year, you will be working with your counselor more than ever to put together the best college applications possible. Take advantage of your scheduled meetings, workshops and, most importantly, our open door policy - come in whenever you have a question. We are here to support you!

Review your resume on Cialfo.

Make sure that you have an updated resume. It will go a long way having all your information at your fingertips when you are filling out your extracurricular activities on your college applications.

Explore academically and personally.

In your senior year, you will have several electives to choose from. They will help you confirm the areas of interests you want to pursue in college and beyond. This is also your last chance to try out sports, clubs, and extracurricular activities before you graduate.

Stay in touch with college athletic programs.

Recruitment and commitment to playing in college may still occur during your senior year. So, make sure to stay connected with your current and future coaches to meet all the requirements and deadlines.

Explore summer opportunities.

Your summer after graduation is potentially the best one yet. Your high school work will be done and college does not start until the fall. So, take advantage to enjoy time with family and friends, get a job to save up for college, and volunteer. If you choose the community college route, you may even get a head start and take summer classes.

Get involved.

Continue participating in extracurricular activities. As mentioned in previous checklists, universities typically look for a well-rounded student in their comprehensive selection process, one that will contribute to the culture and community on campus. The senior year certainly counts.

Attend on-campus visits with college representatives.

This is particularly important in your senior year. It is a great opportunity to introduce yourself to admission officers who will be potentially reading your application later on. Help set yourself apart from other applicants by getting to know the college representative.

Tour college campuses.

If you have not done so yet, you may still visit colleges in the fall, especially local ones, before submitting your applications.

What to do during 12th Grade Fall

Take the SAT exam at La Salle in August.

La Salle is a testing site for the August SAT, all seniors have the option to test on campus.

Create a master list of account login and passwords.

For college applications, financial aid, and scholarships. Many colleges will require you to activate your student portal after applying so it is important that you keep your login information safe.

Sign-up for final ACT or SAT Test Prep.

If you need last minute prep to raise your score, ask your counselor for test prep resources.

Update Cialfo.

With your final college list and application status for each. The colleges must be listed in the 'Applying' section of Cialfo for your counselor to send letters of recommendation, school reports, and transcript.

Complete the brag sheet and ask a counselor or teacher for a letter of recommendation.

Do this at least 2 weeks before the due date and only if you need them.

Apply to scholarships.

Especially local scholarships that are only available to La Salle seniors. Save your writing responses to edit as needed for the many other regional and national scholarships available.

What to do during 12th Grade Fall (cont.)

Create a master calendar.

This should include:

- Tests you still plan to take and their fees, registration deadlines, and dates
- College application due dates.
- Required financial aid and its deadlines
- Scholarships you plan to apply to and their due dates
- La Salle forms and due dates (i.e. brag sheet for a letter of recommendation)

Send ACT and SAT test scores.

Mailed to the colleges to which you are applying. Be sure to send your scores by the college's deadline. For test-optional schools, it is recommended that students send scores if they mirror or exceed the college's admission averages. La Salle College Preparatory does not send test scores for students.

Complete the CSS Profile.

If required. This is an online application used by some private colleges to determine eligibility for aid.

Finalize college essays.

Ask teachers and/or counselors for feedback before you submit.

Finalize your college list (2-3 safety, 3-4 target, and 2-3 reach).

Meet with your counselor to narrow down a final list of 7-10 colleges where you plan to apply. Your counselor will help you strengthen and broaden your list into safety, target, and reach options which will maximize your chances for admission.

Submit your college applications and all required supporting documents by the due date.

Prepare early decision and early action applications as soon as possible. Colleges may require test scores and applications be submitted between Nov 1-15 for early decision or early action. Be sure to proofread your application. Your counselor can help you review it before you submit.

Attend the Cash for College Workshop and complete the FAFSA.

Complete the FAFSA by the March 2nd priority deadline. The application opens on October 1st but it is recommended that families submit as soon as possible.

Create an FSA ID for you and your parents.

Before you can fill out your FAFSA, you need to get a username and password (also known as an FSA ID). You and your parents will need it to sign your application before submitting.

Take or retake the ACT or SAT as needed, keeping in mind that many schools are either test-optional or test-blind.

Consider taking or retaking the test if it is required by the college you are applying to or if it would help to strengthen your application to test-optional colleges.

Maintain your grades and extracurricular involvements.

Even though you have submitted your college applications, it is not over yet. Do not fall ill to senioritis. All college admission offers are "provisional," meaning colleges have the right to rescind your offer until they review your final high school records.

What to do during 12th Grade Spring

Stay active in school.

If you are waitlisted, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and the time you learned of the decision. New and compelling information will help get you off the waitlist.

Request final transcript.

To be sent through Cialfo to the school you plan to attend in the fall by updating your college results.

Submit your enrollment confirmation.

Then send your deposit to one college by the May 1st National Decision Day.

Thank faculty and counselors.

Thank them for writing letters of recommendation and keep them posted on your good news. We are invested in your future!

Review admission offers and visit your final college before accepting.

You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. Carefully weigh your options and visit the college before making your final decision. Remember, you will be happier at your best fit school.

Work with your counselor.

Resolve any admission or financial aid issues.

Apply for housing.

If you plan to live on campus.

Complete the Senior Graduation and Senior Involvement Surveys as part of your graduation requirements.

The information will be used as outcome data for the graduating class and help counselors improve and grow the program.

Review financial aid awards.

Not all financial aid offers are the same, so it is important to choose the aid package that's best for you and your family. Be sure to note the cost out of pocket and what you have to do to continue receiving aid year to year.

Attend overnight, open house, and orientation programs for admitted students.

Become familiar with your campus and learn about the resources available to aid you in a successful transition from high school to college.

Update Cialfo.

Include all college acceptance and denial information.