

Countdown to Graduation



*For
High School
Seniors*



Countdown to Graduation for High School Seniors

In about nine months you will graduate from high school. If you have not already done so, you should take charge of your career planning. In nine short months, you will seek employment, enter the military, or prepare to start post-secondary education.

You should begin now to seek advice regarding employment opportunities, the military, or college planning. Your guidance / counseling office is a good place to start. Keep your counselor informed about your career plans. Help is available to assist you in career planning, but you need to take the first step.

Career plan for your Senior year

monthly reminder of things to do

SEPTEMBER

- Check your school records to make sure you have passed ALL Basic Skills Tests
- Check your school records and review course requirements for graduation
- Discuss your career plans with your parents and school counselor
- Match your course schedule with your career plan
- Research college, technical training, and military options—request college catalogs and admissions information
- Check deadlines and register for the October ACT or SAT test if you did not take these as a Jr.
- Research scholarship sources and fill out necessary forms—visit your school career office
- Attend a College Fair and check college entrance requirements
- Get involved with a community service project or work based learning activity
- Assemble a resume of your information listing activities, school and community, for those people you ask to write a letter of recommendation.

OCTOBER

- Take the SAT and/or ACT tests.
- Schedule time to do a career search using computer guidance programs, i.e. MCIS, Discover, Choices
- Take or re-take the ASVAB if you are considering a military career option
- Pick up an application for post-secondary schools in the guidance/counseling office
- Develop a file system at home for all materials required for scholarships, post-secondary schools and employers
- Obtain college applications, then meet ALL deadlines—use a calendar and circle deadlines
- Visit post-secondary institutions during the MEA break

NOVEMBER

- Fill out college applications and review with your school counselor
- Register to take college entrance tests if required
- Schedule college admissions interview if required
- Check on scholarships in the counseling office and through the *world wide web*
- Check on deadlines for the December ACT or SAT test if you did not take these as a Junior

DECEMBER

- Review your course schedule for second semester
- Pick up the FAFSA Form in the guidance/counseling office and review the form with your parents prior to completing and filing it in February **AND/OR** sign up for a PIN number to complete/file the FAFSA application online at: <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>
- Check your school records to make sure you have passed ALL Basic Standards Tests
- Consider at least three people you should ask to make recommendations for you about college and/or employment

JANUARY

- Finalize your career plans with parents and school counselor
- Complete a final review of materials required by post-secondary schools and/or employers and fill out necessary forms
- Check deadlines for the February ACT test
- Get involved in a service learning project, or other School-to-Career activity
- Take your parents to a Financial Aid Night
- Send mid year transcripts to your chosen college or university



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On-Going Activities

