

The college counseling process officially kicks off in the fall of the junior year; however, the College Counseling Office provides resources and programming for all Upper School students.

Timeline

Ninth Grade

The best things a ninth grader can do to prepare for college are to work hard to get the best grades possible in a curriculum appropriate to his or her ability, and to discover passions both in and outside of the classroom. Be sure to log into your Naviance account which is sent to you via a link to your school email. If you lost it or never got it (check your spam), please email the College Counselor to reset it for you. Here you will find assessments that will let you know more about who you are, how best you learn, your top strengths, etc. All important information as you start thinking about college.

Colleges look for quality and depth of commitment, and freshman year is the best time to start taking advantage of the many opportunities available to Sagemont students, whether through clubs and activities, athletics, or the fine and performing arts. Find a passion and pursue it! Another thing that will help you plan is attending the college night meeting for your grade in the Fall.

Tenth Grade

Sophomore year is a good time to take a hard look at yourself. What are your likes and dislikes, and how will they translate into your life after Sagemont? Take a career interest inventory on Sagemont's own Family Connection website (through Naviance) to get a sense of what you might like to do in the future. Schedule a meeting with the college counselor for the purpose of assistance with junior year scheduling, be sure to utilize Dr. Rios if you are considering a major change in your schedule (dropping an academic discipline, for example). In addition, sophomores in Honors Precalculus might want to consider taking the SAT Subject Test in June. Another thing that will help you plan is attending the college night meeting for your grade in the Fall.

Junior Year, Fall

- Throughout the junior year, it is important for you, as a student, to concentrate on your studies at school and to develop or continue to pursue a few, well-chosen activities which are interesting and enjoyable for you. Having a solid academic record and being a contributing member of the Sagemont community is the best way for you to prepare yourself for the college process.
- The college research process officially begins in the fall of the junior year with our Junior College Night where parents and students learn more about the process of admissions, interviews, admissions decisions and the big deal about those college essays.
- Students are encouraged to meet with the college representatives who will visit Sagemont each fall. Updated listings will be displayed on Media Center door and in college counseling office.

- Attend the Sagemont College Fair in October.
- Think about dual enrollment courses.
- Attend the NACAC College Fair in October held at the Broward Convention Center.
- Take the PSAT in October.
- Take both the ACT and SAT to see which one you prefer before the Senior year.
- Start to think of interesting and creative ways to spend the summer before your senior year.

Junior Year, Fall/Winter

- Juniors will complete a detailed questionnaire in the form of a self-evaluation. Each junior and his/her parents will meet with the College Counselor to discuss academic and personal interests, future testing, senior year scheduling and the college search between January and May.
- Register to take the SAT I in the spring before you leave for summer .
- Inquire for information from colleges, and perhaps use your spring break to visit.
- Choose a senior year program which is both challenging and pertinent to your interests and educational goals. Senior year counts!
- Sign up to attend the summer college essay workshop at Sagemont in July.

Senior Year, Summer: Checklist

- Make sure your Naviance account is updated.
- Set up your Common App and/or Coalition app accounts.
- Contact colleges for information before the senior year.
- Be visible in the College Counseling Office (CCO). Make sure Dr. Rios is updated on your college search and any new academic or extracurricular information in order to represent you best to your college choices.
- Get organized and plan ahead! Keep a folder for all college information, noting deadlines carefully.
- Keep track of all CCO e-mails and communications. We can't help you if you don't read or respond to what we send you!
- Memorize your social security number and Sagemont's CEEB test code number: **101814**.
- Check your high school transcript for accuracy. Notify your college counselor of inaccuracies immediately.
- **If you haven't taken the ACT or SAT yet, this is the time you really should get it done!**
- Read the SAT Registration Bulletin carefully for test information. It is your responsibility to have test results sent to the colleges to which you are applying.
- If the online applications allow for this function, download and print what you have typed in. Things do happen with technology. Things do get lost in admissions offices.
- Sign up to attend the Senior Summer Jumpstart in August.

Senior Year, Fall

- Return to school with a list of ten to fifteen colleges in which you are very interested. Categorized by Dream (Reach), Target and Safety Schools. Meet with your college counselor to discuss your list. By mid-October, make your final choice of the schools to which you will apply.
- Attend Senior College Night in September for parents and students hosted by the COO.
- Line up college visits and interviews early in the fall. Plan to do college visits on the weekends in September and October and when Sagemont has planned no classes. See school schedule on the Sagemont website.
- Attend meetings with college representatives visiting Sagemont as appropriate. RSVP via Naviance.
- Register for the SAT I in October and the SAT II (if necessary) in November or December.
- The FAFSA (free federal form for student aid) usually goes live in October. Fill it out asap. For the few schools that require CSS Financial Aid profile, fill that out as well.
- Remember deadlines for Early Option/Early Decision. Get all you need done at least two weeks before so you are not stressing out on deadline day.
- For regular admissions, all applications should be finished by December 1. Set aside blocks of uninterrupted, quality time when you can work on your applications and essays. Budget your time carefully - the more you plan ahead, the less painful the process will be!

Senior Year, Winter/Spring

- Follow up with each college to insure that all application credentials are in place.
- Send financial aid forms to the appropriate places in early January.
- Keep your college counselor updated on any academic or extracurricular developments that could influence your college application (awards won, offices secured, academic improvement/decline, etc.).
- Receive notification of admissions decisions, and notify your college counselor!
- Make final visits to colleges if you haven't decided where to attend.
- Reply to the colleges by May 1 (known as Decision Day or College Signing Day) to accept a place. Notify colleges you decide not to attend as soon as possible in courtesy of others on their wait list. Don't forget to pass by the COO for those social media pics celebrating your decision!
- Keep up those final senior year grades! Colleges will ask for a final grade report!
- Graduation!
- Off for a great summer before the new chapter of your life begins!