

RHS Counseling: What Should I be Doing in 12th Grade?

- **Throughout the year**
 - Know what courses you must pass for graduation. (This is great practice for college.)
 - Stay on top of your college application, trade school application or military enlistment
 - Plan your time. There is a lot to balance this year.
 - Keep in touch with your overall well being and check in with us if you need anything
 - Counseling Appointments can be scheduled here: <https://bit.ly/rhscounselingappt>
- **Recommended Standardized Tests**
 - SAT or ACT:
 - Some colleges are not requiring standardized tests this year for admission. They may be required for merit scholarships. Keep track of the requirements.
 - Students may register for the SAT at www.collegeboard.com or the ACT at www.actstudent.org
 - SAT II Tests:
 - No colleges in Michigan need SAT IIs, most colleges do not.
 - AP Tests:
 - Registering for an AP test takes place in the fall. You will be given a join code by your teacher to submit and register with CollegeBoard. You will then pay RCS for each test and provide proof of payment to the counseling office.
- **Fall**
 - Counselors hold a senior meeting to review the college application process and your post high school plans in the second week of school
 - Small group senior meetings take place after the mass meeting
 - Open lunch sessions are held on Tuesdays in October
 - Apply to colleges as soon as you are able to complete a thorough application
 - See the second page of this document for a general framework
 - Sign up for the RHS College Representative Visits for the colleges you're applying to
 - Why? The person visiting is the person reading your application.
 - Great time to ask housing, scholarship, and other questions
 - Attend the RCS College Fair usually in October
 - Attend the RCS Financial Aid Presentation
 - Usually Oct 1st: Begin filling out the FAFSA for student aid (grants and loans), likely Dec 1st for 2024-25 students
- **Winter**
 - Dec 1st: Begin filling out the FAFSA for student aid (grants and loans)
 - January - Counselors host College App/Post High School Planning Day for seniors who have not applied yet
 - Seniors who fail a 1st Semester Class need to meet with a counselor to check on graduation requirements
- **Spring**
 - Weigh the pros and cons of all of the colleges who offer admission
 - This choice is unique to your goals and your family circumstances
 - May 1st: Turn in your enrollment deposit to your selected college before this date
 - Take your AP Tests if applicable
 - Pass all of your classes
 - Celebrate your accomplishments and relax!

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RHS College Application Outline

- Begin applying to colleges asap
- Most students apply to 3-4 colleges
- Every college application has at least three components: application, transcripts, and test scores.
- Very few may require letters of recommendation.

1. Application.

- a. This is on their website, the Common Application, or the Coalition Application
- b. You must hit "Submit" on the application and turn in all required documents by the deadline

2. Transcripts

- a. RHS sends your transcripts electronically to the colleges you apply to
- b. Go to www.parchment.com and create an account
- c. Order transcripts for each college you are applying to (Or to common app/coalition app)
- d. Complete your orders by mid-October to ensure they get to colleges by November 1st

3. Standardized Test Scores

- a. Many (if not most) colleges are not requiring them for admission this year, but they may require them for merit scholarships. Keep track of each college!
- b. If you take a test, you can choose three colleges to send scores to when you register. This will save you time and money!
- c. Plan to place an order for your scores to be sent to colleges at least 30 days prior to the college's deadline.
 - i. SAT scores: log into www.collegeboard.com directly to send your scores to the colleges you are applying to (if you took it, and if they require it)
 - ii. ACT scores: log into www.actstudent.org directly to send your scores to the colleges you are applying to (if you took it, and if they require it)

4. Letters of Recommendation (not needed by every college):

- a. If your college requires a letter of recommendation, ask your teachers for a letter of recommendation ASAP. If a college does not require one, they likely do not want one.
- b. Add your teacher and counselor to the "recommender" portion of your applications by mid-September

Additional College Related Information

1. FAFSA - Free Application for Federal Student Aid

- a. This is the only way to get need-based financial aid or any federal student loans
- b. Opens October 1st/December 1st likely for 2024-25 and should be finished as soon as possible
- c. <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa>

2. NCAA / NAIA

- a. If you plan to be a college athlete, begin the clearinghouse process at
 - i. NCAA: <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>
 - ii. NAIA: <https://www.naia.org/student-athletes/index>

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