



THE COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

FOUR-YEAR CHECKLIST

BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

FRESHMAN YEAR

BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS	<p>Courses are selected based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High School Placement Test Scores • 8th Grade Teacher Recommendations & Grades • Input from Brother Rice Department Chairs <p>Make sure Brother Rice has your current email address so you receive the daily announcements. This is our primary mode of communication.</p>
FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL	<p>From the moment you walk through the doors of Brother Rice,</p> <p>EVERY GRADE COUNTS!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work Hard • Study Hard • Ask for Help if you need it.
FIRST SEMESTER	<p>Create a four-year curriculum plan for high school. The courses that you take in high school show colleges what kind of goals you set for yourself. Challenge yourself with a rigorous schedule. Colleges will be more impressed by respectable grades in challenging courses than by outstanding grades in easy ones.</p> <p>Become involved in extracurricular activities at school, at home, and within your community.</p> <p>Explore and learn about careers and what college requirements are for majors that interest you.</p>
ALL SCHOOL TESTING DAY OCTOBER	<p>Freshman will take the PSAT 9. The PSAT 9 establishes a baseline measurement of your college and career readiness as you enter high school. It also gives you a chance to preview the SAT, PSAT/NMSQT, and PSAT 10 and connect to AP courses.</p>
SECOND SEMESTER	<p>Create a file of important documents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lists of awards and honors, lists of community activities, including both paid and volunteer work, and extracurricular activities.
FEBRUARY	<p>Meet with your counselor to determine sophomore courses.</p>

SOPHOMORE YEAR

BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS	Make sure Brother Rice has your current email address so you receive the daily announcements at home.
ALL SCHOOL TESTING DAY OCTOBER	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sophomores take the PSAT 10. The PSAT 10 is: • The same test as the PSAT/NMSQT. • Offered in the spring. • For 10th graders — but they can still take the PSAT/NMSQT in the fall. • Students can prep for the PSAT and the SAT at www.khanacademy.org • Not considered for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
FEBRUARY	<p>Meet with your counselor to determine junior and senior year courses.</p> <p>Challenge yourself with tougher courses. Talk to your counselor about taking AP and Honors courses.</p>
ALL YEAR ROUND	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learn what resources are available to help you plan for college by meeting with your school's college counselor. • Begin your college search and visits – find out about the different types of school. Decide which characteristics are most important to you – size, location, curriculum and cost. • Continue extracurricular activities. • Update your resume with awards, activities, summer jobs etc.

JUNIOR YEAR

AUGUST	Start your year off right by talking with your school counselor about the year ahead. Ask about test dates for the PSAT/NMSQT, ACT, and SAT. You will need to register up to six weeks ahead of time.
ALL YEAR	Make sure that your grades are the best that they can be this year. Your college applications will be filed with your Freshman to Junior year grades. When colleges look at your transcripts, they put a heavy emphasis on Junior year grades.
FALL SEMESTER	<p>College Admissions Representatives from all over the country visit Brother Rice each fall. Students are encouraged to attend these small group visits. These representatives are the readers of your application.</p> <p>Plan to visit local College Fairs.</p> <p>Begin to prepare for the ACT or the SAT. Sign up for ACT or SAT prep courses or use free test preparation resources on the Internet. Khan Academy is an excellent resource for test preparation.</p>
ALL SCHOOL TESTING DAY	Juniors will take the PSAT/NMSQT. This test is a great way to preview and practice for the SAT and the ACT. Students taking the PSAT/NMSQT will automatically be screened for the National Merit® Scholarship Program.
EARLY SPRING SEMESTER	<p>Begin taking a more serious look at colleges and universities. Make a file for each college and gather information about academic and standardized test requirements, financial aid, and campus life. Attend college fairs and open houses and learn as much as you can about colleges online.</p> <p>Begin planning college visits. Try to visit colleges and include a large, medium size, and small campus.</p> <p>Develop a preliminary list of colleges that interest you. Organize your collected information into detailed, useful comparisons. Schedule a meeting with your counselor to discuss college plans.</p>
SPRING SEMESTER	<p>Begin to search for Scholarships. There are informative scholarship websites, including FastWeb (www.fastweb.com), and The College Board (http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search) and many more. Contact local businesses about potential scholarship opportunities, including workplace, community, religious, and civic organizations. Watch the Brother Rice Announcements for other scholarship opportunities. You should never pay for scholarship information.</p> <p>Classroom presentations are made by the Counseling Department regarding the college admissions process. Each student is required to complete the Common Application, a college essay, and an updated student resume. Your current English teacher corrects and grades these items. These documents are then placed in the student's Counseling Department file for future use.</p>
FEBRUARY	Meet with your counselor to determine Senior year courses.
APRIL	<p>All Juniors will take the ACT during the school day on April 19, 2016.</p> <p>Send your official ACT and/or SAT scores directly from the testing service to the colleges you are applying to (through act.org for the ACT or collegeboard.com for the SAT).</p> <p>Plan and prepare for the SAT II's if they are required by a college that you are applying to.</p>
MAY	Study for AP Exams. If you are in AP classes, prepare and study for your AP exams. Scores of 4 or 5 will earn you college credit.
END OF SPRING SEMESTER	<p>Make a list of teachers, counselors, employers, and coaches you might ask to write letters of recommendation for your college applications.</p> <p>Line up a summer job, internship, or look into taking a summer class at your local community college. Plan to visit colleges.</p>

	Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. If you plan on playing sports at the college level, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center and request that your transcript be sent through parchment.com , and your test scores are directly sent from the appropriate testing service.
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SENIOR YEAR

AUGUST	<p>Register for the ACT and/or SAT if you are not satisfied with your score and want to retake it in September or October. Send your scores directly from the testing service (act.org for the ACT and collegeboard.com for the SAT) to the colleges that you are applying to.</p> <p>Update resume and prepare to complete teacher recommendation forms. Be sure to give your teachers 2-3 weeks to complete the letters.</p> <p>Create a Checklist and Calendar to chart:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • College application due dates • Financial aid application forms and deadlines • Other materials that you will need for college applications (standardized test scores, teacher and counselor recommendations, transcripts, essays, etc.) <p>Finalize the list of colleges that you are applying to.</p>
SEPTEMBER 30th	Brother Rice's recommended deadline for college's with Rolling Admissions. MSU, Central, Grand Valley, Western, Oakland University, University of Detroit Mercy.
OCTOBER 15	Brother Rice's recommended deadline for Early Decision (Binding) and Early Action applications. Most Early Action colleges have a strict November 1 st deadline.
NOVEMBER 1	Deadline for applications for Merit-based Scholarships.
NOVEMBER	Attend the Counseling Department's Financial Aid Seminar put on by Lawrence Tech.
DECEMBER 5	Deadline for Regular Decision Applications.
JANUARY-FEBRUARY	<p>Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible after January 1st at fafsa.ed.gov.</p> <p>Complete the CSS/Financial Aid Profile. This is a College Scholarship Service. More than 600 colleges and universities use this to determine eligibility for non-federal student aid funds. Go to collegeboard.com.</p> <p>Do not slack in the classroom. While most of your applications are complete and you are waiting to receive admission decisions or have already received admission decisions, it is important to keep up your grades. The college that you attend require a final transcript. No Senioritis!</p> <p>If you have been deferred from a college that you want to attend, concentrate on strengthening your academic record and resume.</p>
APRIL 1	Deadline for colleges and universities to notify you of their final decisions.
MAY 1	Deadline for you to make your final college selection and notify the school of your decision. You must notify the schools that you will NOT be attending as well as the Counseling Department.
MAY	<p>Graduation!!</p> <p>Final Transcripts must be sent to the college that you will be attending through parchment.com.</p> <p>If you are "wait listed" by a college you really want to attend, visit, call, and write the admission office to make your interest clear. Ask how you can strengthen your application.</p>

