



# THE COLLEGE PLANNING GUIDE

FOUR-YEAR CHECKLIST

BROTHER RICE HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELING DEPARTMENT

## FRESHMAN YEAR

<b>BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS</b>	<p>Courses are selected based on the following criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High School Placement Test Scores</li> <li>• 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher Recommendations &amp; Grades</li> <li>• Input from Brother Rice Department Chairs</li> </ul> <p>Make sure Brother Rice has your current email address so you receive the daily announcements. This is our primary mode of communication.</p>
<b>FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL</b>	<p>From the moment you walk through the doors of Brother Rice:</p> <p><b>EVERY GRADE COUNTS!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work Hard</li> <li>• Study Hard</li> <li>• Ask for Help if you need it</li> </ul>
<b>FIRST SEMESTER</b>	<p><b>Create a four-year curriculum plan for high school.</b> 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—play to your strengths when possible.</p> <p><b>-Become involved in extracurricular activities</b> at school, at home, and within your community.</p> <p><b>-Explore and learn</b> about careers and what college requirements are for majors that interest you.</p>
<b>ALL SCHOOL TESTING DAY OCTOBER</b>	<p><b>Freshmen will take the PSAT 9.</b> 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>
<b>SECOND SEMESTER</b>	<p><b>Create a file of important documents.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lists of awards and honors, lists of community activities, including both paid and volunteer work, and extracurricular activities.</li> </ul>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<p>Meet with your counselor to determine Sophomore courses.</p>

## SOPHOMORE YEAR

<b>BEFORE SCHOOL STARTS</b>	<p>Make sure Brother Rice has your current email address so you receive the daily announcements at home.</p>
<b>ALL YEAR</b>	<p><b>Keep your grades strong, seeking assistance when needed.</b> Your college applications will evaluate your Freshman to Junior year grades <u>and</u> courses. Continue to challenge yourself academically.</p>
<b>ALL SCHOOL TESTING DAY IN OCTOBER</b>	<p>Sophomores take the PSAT 10. The PSAT 10 is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The same test as the PSAT/NMSQT</li> <li>• Students can prep for the PSAT and the SAT at <a href="http://www.khanacademy.org">www.khanacademy.org</a></li> <li>• Not considered for the National Merit Scholarship Program</li> </ul>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<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>
<b>ALL YEAR ROUND</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn what resources are available to help you plan for college by meeting with your counselor, attending Chapel Meetings and attending College Programming.</li> <li>• 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.</li> <li>• Continue extracurricular activities.</li> <li>• Update your resume with awards, activities, summer jobs etc.</li> </ul>

# JUNIOR YEAR

<b>AUGUST</b>	<p><b>Start your year off right by talking with your school counselor about the year ahead.</b> Ask about test dates for the PSAT/NMSQT, ACT, and SAT. You will need to register up to six weeks ahead of time.</p>
<b>ALL YEAR</b>	<p><b>Make sure that your grades are the best that they can be this year.</b> When colleges look at your transcripts, they put a heavy emphasis on Junior year grades as a part of your overall academic trend. Continue challenging yourself in your coursework, playing to your academic strengths when possible.</p>
<b>FALL SEMESTER</b>	<p><b>-College Admissions Representatives from all over the country visit Brother Rice each fall.</b> Students are encouraged to attend these small group visits. These representatives are the readers of your application.</p> <p><b>-Plan to visit local College Fairs.</b></p> <p><b>-Begin to prepare for the ACT or the SAT.</b> Sign up for ACT or SAT prep courses or use free test preparation resources on the Internet.</p>
<b>ALL SCHOOL TESTING DAY IN OCTOBER</b>	<p><b>Juniors will take the PSAT/NMSQT.</b> This test is a great way to preview and practice for the SAT. Students taking the PSAT/NMSQT will automatically be screened for the National Merit<sup>®</sup> Scholarship Program.</p>
<b>EARLY SPRING SEMESTER</b>	<p><b>-Begin taking a more serious look at colleges and universities.</b> 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><b>-Begin planning college visits.</b> Try to visit colleges and include a large, medium size, and small campus.</p> <p><b>-Develop a preliminary list of colleges that interest you.</b> Organize your collected information into detailed, useful comparisons.</p> <p><b>- Begin to search for Scholarships.</b> There are informative scholarship websites, including FastWeb (<a href="http://www.fastweb.com">www.fastweb.com</a>), and The College Board. (<a href="http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search">http://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search</a>) 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><b>-College Essay Writing Workshops in English Classes</b></p> <p><b>-Complete Naviance Resume</b></p> <p><b>-Attend Junior College Night with your parents</b></p>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<p><b>-Meet with your counselor to determine Senior year courses.</b></p>
<b>MARCH</b>	<p><b>-Ensure you are registered for spring/summer standardized testing</b></p> <p><b>-Plan and prepare for the SAT Subject Exams if they are required by a college that you are applying to.</b></p>
<b>MAY</b>	<p><b>Study for AP Exams.</b> If you are in AP classes, prepare and study for your AP exams. Scores of 4 or 5 typically will earn you college credit.</p>
<b>END OF SPRING SEMESTER</b>	<p><b>-Secure Teacher Recommender(s)</b> for your college applications.</p> <p><b>-Plan for a productive summer.</b> Line up a summer job, internship, or look into taking a summer class at your local community college. Plan to visit colleges.</p> <p><b>-Register with the NCAA Eligibility Center.</b> 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 and your test scores are sent directly sent from the appropriate testing service.</p> <p><b>-Establish a Common App Account</b></p> <p><b>-Have a complete prospective college list in Naviance</b></p>
<b>ONGOING IN SECOND SEMESTER</b>	<p><b>Attend Warrior College Workshops and Evening Programs.</b></p>

# SENIOR YEAR

<b>AUGUST</b>	<p>-Register for the ACT and/or SAT if you are not satisfied with your score and want to retake it in the fall.</p> <p>-Submit Transcript Request Forms and Update your college list in Naviance</p> <p>-Verify at least one set of test scores are sent to your colleges to “complete’ your file. Send you scores directly from the testing service (<a href="http://act.org">act.org</a> for the ACT and <a href="http://collegeboard.com">collegeboard.com</a> for the SAT) to the colleges that you are applying to. Future testing can be sent down the line when available.</p> <p>-Log in and complete your Common App Account.</p> <p>-Attend Senior Parent College Night in late August/Early September</p>
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	-Attend Financial Aid Program.
<b>SEPTEMBER 30th</b>	-Brother Rice’s recommended deadline for college’s with Rolling Admissions. (Central, Grand Valley, Western, Oakland University, University of Detroit Mercy, Wayne State...etc.)
<b>OCTOBER 1</b>	<p>Brother Rice’s recommended deadline for Early Decision (Binding) and Early Action applications. Most Early Deadline colleges have a strict November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline.</p> <p>-FAFSA becomes available. Many colleges also require the CCS PROFILE form. Complete and submit if applying for need-based financial aid.</p>
<b>DECEMBER 5</b>	<b>Internal Deadline for Regular Decision Applications.</b>
<b>ONGOING</b>	<p>Attend Warrior College Workshops &amp; Application Bootcamps</p> <p><b>Keep Senior Year Grades Strong, as some colleges will request them.</b> 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> <p>-Keep the Counseling Office updated on your college decisions</p>
<b>MAY 1</b>	<b>Deadline to make your final college selection and notify the school of your decision.</b> You must notify the schools that you will NOT be attending as well as the Counseling Department.
<b>MAY</b>	<p><b>Graduation!!</b></p> <p><b>Final Transcripts</b> must be sent to the college that you will be attending.</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>