

**James S. Rickards High School
Class of 2012**

College Planning Calendar

June, July, & August 2011

- If you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college register with the NCAA Clearinghouse (www.ncaaclearinghouse.net).
- Find a full-time or part time job, or participate in a camp or summer college program.
- Visit Colleges. Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, make appointments to have interviews with admissions counselors.
- Create a resume'—a record of accomplishments, activities, and work experiences since you started high school.
- Download applications (or request paper copies from colleges to which you'll apply. Check application dates—large universities may have early dates or rolling admissions.

September 2011

- Narrow your list of colleges to 5-10. Meet with a counselor about them and, if you've not yet done so, download college applications and financial aid forms. Plan to visit many of these colleges if possible.
- Create a master list or calendar that includes:
 - Tests you'll take and their fees, dates, and registration deadlines.
 - College application due dates
 - Financial aid application forms required and their deadlines
 - Other materials you will need (i.e. recommendations, transcripts)
 - Any JSRHS processing deadlines
- If you cannot afford application or test fees, a counselor can help you request a fee waiver.
- If you have not had your test scores sent to the college to which you are applying, be sure to contact the College Board or ACT to have your scores sent.

October 2011

- Try to finalize you college choices.
- Prepare Early Decision, Early Action, or rolling admissions applications as soon as possible.
- As for counselor or teacher recommendations if you need them. Give each teacher or counselor an outline of your academic record and your extra curricular activities. For each recommendation , provide a stamped, addressed envelope, and any college forms required.
- If you are submitting essays, write first drafts and ask teachers and others to read them. If you are applying for Early Decision, finish the essays for that application now.
- If you have not had your test scores sent to the college to which you are applying, be sure to contact the College Board or ACT to have your scores sent.

November 2011

- November 1-15: For Early Decision admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications between these dates.
- Complete at least one college application by Thanksgiving.
- Counselors send transcripts to colleges. Give counselors the proper forms at least two weeks before colleges require them.

December 2011

- As you finish and send your applications and essays, be sure to keep copies
- If you're your college wants to see seventh-semester grades, be sure to give your form to your counselor.

January 2012

- If you apply to colleges online, be sure to have your high school send a transcript—it goes to colleges separately, and by mail.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) using your parents' 2011 tax information. Visit www.fafsa.ed.gov.

February 2012

- No senioritis, please! Accepting colleges do look at second-semester senior grades.

March 2012

- Keep active in school. If you are wait-listed, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and learned of its decision

April 2012

- You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. If you've not done so yet, visit your final college before accepting. As soon as you decide, notify your counselor of your choice.
- If you have questions about housing offers, talk to your counselor or call the college.

May 2012

- May 1: Colleges cannot require a deposit or commitment to attend before may 1. By that postmarked date, you must inform every college of you acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid.
- Send you deposit to one college only.
- Work with counselor to resolve any admissions or financial aid problems.

June 2012

- Ask your high school to send a final transcript to you college.