

With the your child's Senior Year beginning in August, YES Prep's College Initiatives Program wants to support your family as you prepare for your Senior to start their Senior Year.

Below is a **Milestone Calendar** that your son or daughter will complete to stay on schedule during the College Application Cycle. Also included are guiding questions your family can use to have conversations going into the start of the School Year.

College Application Milestones

August

- Finalize College List
- Work on Application Components (Essays, Resumes, etc.)

September

- Prepare for SAT School Day
- Seniors Prepare to Submit First College Application
- Begin ordering Commencement Cap and Gown.

October

- SAT School Day or take TSIA for first time.
- YES Prep College Fair
- Student submit first College Applications
- Students begin applying for outside Scholarships.
- Students may participate in College Visit or Fly-In opportunities.

November

- Early Admission, Early Decision, and Priority Admission Deadlines
- Students should submit all College Applications before Thanksgiving
- Students considering the Military take the ASVAB
- Students receive final SAT Score, determine if they need to take TSIA or participate in Texas College Bridge.

December

- Apply for State and Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA / TASFA)

January

- Apply for Outside / Third-Party Scholarships.
- Admissions Decisions Letters begin, for colleges who do not use rolling admission.

February

- Students who are not exempt by SAT Scores take the TSIA

March

- Admission Decisions and Financial Aid Letters Continue.
- Students and families begin meeting with College Counselor to begin evaluating and comparing financial aid awards
- As students commit to college, accept offers of admission and aid packages.

April

- Meet with your Seniors College Counselor ahead of National College Decision Day (May 1) when many colleges require deposit.
- Begin committing to your college decision or other post-secondary pathway.

May & June

- National College Decision Day
- Register for College Orientation
- Senior Signing Day
- YES Prep Commencement

Conversation Starters

Included below are guiding questions your family can use to have conversations going into the start of the School Year. Discussing the answers to these questions can help identify topics you may want to discuss with your Senior's College Counselor when you meet with them during the College Counseling process.

Here are five conversation starter questions to ask your Senior before the start of the school year:

1. What are you most excited about for your Senior Year?
2. Right now, which pathway are you leaning towards?
 - a. **Pathways include:** Enrolling at 4-Year College, 2-Year Community College, enlisting in the Military, joining the workforce.
 - b. **For Parents:** Do you have expectations about your son or daughter plans for after they graduate from high school?
3. What Colleges are on your College List?
 - a. Are the colleges local, in Texas, or out-of-state?
 - b. What is your top choice (#1 College)?
 - c. Do you plan to apply Early Decision or Early Action?
 - d. **For Parents:** Will you as a family support them applying Early Decision, which is a binding commitment?
4. How are you preparing for SAT School Day in October?
 - a. Are you happy with your current SAT Scores?
 - b. What should you focus on in studying for the SAT?
5. Let's discuss money.
 - a. Senior Year Expenses can include college expenses, including Application Fees, Orientation Fees, College Deposits, Housing Deposits, etc.
 - b. Other Senior Year Expenses can include Graduation expenses like Cap and Gown.
 - c. Additionally, Senior Year Expenses can include ways your senior may want to celebrate their senior year, like a Senior Ring, Yearbook, Senior Trip, etc.
 - d. **For Parents:** Discuss, as a family, what is important to your Senior. Also, set expectations of what the budget may be to support some of these expenses.