

College Planning Calendar for Seniors at Lancaster Mennonite School

Every college or post-secondary institution may have unique deadlines and schedule for when you submit your applications pieces. This is a generic timetable that you may use but you should check with the colleges you are applying to so you know the exact deadlines to determine your plan.

August Prior To Your Senior Year

- Request applications and information from colleges
- Visit school campuses throughout the summer to help narrow down choices
- Look into overnight or weekend college visitation programs
- Take note of upcoming SAT and ACT registration and test dates

September

- Receive college information at a senior class meeting
 - College Planning Calendar for Seniors
 - Instructions & Guidelines for Seniors regarding the College application process
 - College Application Checklist
- Visit the Guidance office on campus to take advantage of the many useful resources
- Make sure your family receives the monthly email newsletter from the guidance office
- Mark your calendar for local college fairs and when admissions representatives visit campus – a complete list of admission rep visitations are on the bulletin board outside the guidance office and are posted online in the guidance section of LMS's website
- Schedule appointments with your counselor
- Create a master list or calendar that includes:
 - SAT or ACT test dates, fees and registration deadlines
 - College application due dates
 - Financial aid application forms required and their deadlines
- Visit websites for free test prep and practice exams for the SAT and ACT
- Register for the SAT, SAT Subject or ACT
- Visit college campuses – make sure you fill out an Educational Excuse Form 5 days prior to your visit if you are visiting on a school day – you may get this form from the main high school office or on the school's website
- Prepare to complete FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)

October

- Begin completing college applications and essays
- Visit the Guidance office to take advantage of the many useful resources
- Ask teachers and your school counselor to complete recommendation letters and forms – please give them at least 2 weeks to complete these forms
- Request transcripts from the guidance office and letters of recommendations from teachers
- Meet with your school counselor
- Attend local college fairs in Lancaster County and surrounding public schools
- Continue to meet with college admission representatives that come on campus - including Mennonite College Day
- Attend financial aid & FAFSA seminars in the area, complete the FAFSA
- Explore scholarship information online – check out the 'resource' page of LMS's guidance website
- If needed, take the SAT, SAT Subject or ACT that you may have registered to take
- Consider signing up to take AP exams if you are enrolled in an AP Course.

November

- Complete college applications by Thanksgiving (some colleges have earlier deadlines)
- Try to finalize your college choices
- Give counselors and the guidance office 7-10 school days to send your transcript to colleges – even if you have applied online
- Meet with college admission representatives that come on campus
- Take the SAT or ACT that you may have registered to take – if needed

December

- As you finish and send your applications and essays (before Christmas!), be sure to keep copies
- Contact the college's financial aid office to see what student aid programs exist on a state or campus level
- Obtain any other financial aid forms that may be required by your target schools. Check with the financial aid offices to see if they have specific financial aid requirements and/or deadlines

January

- Successfully complete your first semester courses
- Continue a rigorous course selection for second semester – accepting colleges do look at the second semester senior classes and grades which will be on your final high school transcript

February

- Submit all the necessary paperwork or applications for any private or outside scholarships you may have identified
- Be sure you have submitted all required forms: the college admissions application, the FAFSA, any private scholarships, and any state or school-specific forms required for financial aid

March

- Keep active in school – accepting colleges do look at the second semester senior classes and grades which will be on your final high school transcript
- If you are enrolled in an AP course, ask your teacher about the AP test in May
 - Contact your college to see if they will accept your AP credit and to see what score is necessary to receive college credit

April

- You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April.
- Make a final enrollment decision and submit enrollment deposit, if requested
- If a school accepted you but you will not be attending, notify the school of your decision not to attend

May

- Successfully complete second semester classes
- Request the guidance office to send your final high school transcript to the college you are attending
- Take any AP exams you signed up to take

June & July

- Participate in commencement!
- Complete any remaining student aid forms
- Plan for college orientation, transportation and housing for the fall
- If you have not done so, request the guidance office to send your final high school transcript to the college you are attending