



Planning for College Calendar

Junior Year

September

- Begin planning your senior class schedule with your guidance counselor. You'll want to challenge yourself and maintain strong grades, as junior year is the last full year of grades you'll be able to show to universities.
- Research majors and careers that interest you, and take a look at universities that excel in your chosen field(s) of study.
- Attend college fairs in your area. (for Mason, visit admissions.gmu.edu/meetmason)

October-November

- Take the PSAT, and visit <http://www.collegeboard.com/student/testing/psat/prep.html> to help you study.
- Begin requesting college admissions materials from schools that interest you (Hint: look for a "Request Info" link on admissions websites).

December

- Review your PSAT results — this will help you prepare for the SAT.
- Discuss with your guidance counselor whether an SAT prep course would be beneficial to you.

January-February

- Register for the April or May SAT and/or ACT. Contact colleges to determine which tests they require or prefer to see.
- Begin sending test scores to the colleges in which you are interested (College Board lets you send your scores to 4 schools for free!)

March-May

- Use Spring Break to visit colleges that interest you. Seeing schools in person is the best way to make an informed college decision.
- Consider taking Advanced Placement (AP) exams if you participated in AP courses as a junior.

June-August

- Take SAT subject tests (SAT IIs) if required by your top college choices.
- Request financial aid/scholarship information from your top schools. Check important dates; many schools require an early application for scholarship consideration.
- Use your Summer Break to visit colleges and narrow down your list of schools. Research their application deadlines, and begin to work on those applications and essays.
- Ask teachers, counselors, employers, or community leaders for letters of recommendation.
- Register to take the SAT/ACT in October and/or November if you need additional scores.

For more information visit...

<http://admissions.gmu.edu/freshmen/>

<http://financialaid.gmu.edu/>

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/>



Planning for College Calendar

Senior Year

September

- Make a master " My College Plan" calendar and mark down important dates, including when you plan to finish your essays, and when your applications and supplement materials are due
- Attend area college fairs, financial aid programs, and meet with admissions representatives who visit your high school
- Visit additional schools or make return visits to your top choices.

October-November

- Make sure you meet any early application deadlines and finalize all required materials for applications (Mason's Early Action deadline is **November 1st**).
- Prepare to submit any required scholarship or Honors College applications to your short list of colleges and research external scholarships.
- When you submit an application, be sure to request that your high school send any supplement materials such as a transcript or letters of recommendation. Submit applications, for admission along with high school transcript and other supporting documents by the end of October.

December-January

- Continue to work on your college applications and make sure you're on track to complete all requirements by any Regular Decision application deadlines (Mason's is **January 15th**).
- Complete and file your completed **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. This form is available on January 1st, and it's best to submit it early.
- Check to see if colleges on your list require an application for on-campus housing. (Mason will help you with these next steps once you are admitted!)

February-April

- Request that your high school counselor sends your mid-year transcripts to the schools to which you have applied. Colleges will want to see how your senior year classes are going.
- Compare all financial aid award packages received from different colleges, and speak with your financial aid counselor if you have concerns or questions.

May

- It's almost time to make a final decision...**May 1st** is the national deposit deadline! Contact your Admissions Counselor (for Mason, visit admissions.gmu.edu/counselors), and ask lots of questions.
- Once you've chosen your school, don't forget to send in your enrollment/housing deposit(s), which are required to reserve your space in the freshman class.
- Withdraw applications and financial aid packages for colleges at which you chose not to attend.
- Take Advanced Placement (AP) exams if you have participated in AP courses as a senior. Have official scores sent to your college.
- Complete Orientation registration and submit all necessary immunization records.
- Request that your final high school transcript be mailed to your college.
- Congratulations, you've done it!