



COLLEGE &  
CAREER  
CENTER

# Post-Secondary Planning

## Senior Year

### High School & Beyond—XELLO

Students are required to complete the High School & Beyond requirement each year which is done through XELLO. Below are the standards that need to be met for **Senior year**. Different activities are added each year, and students must stay on track to be able to graduate. Please see the JHS College & Career Teams page that aligns with your graduation year and click on the High School and Beyond channel for more information. Connect with Mrs. Campbell, [mcampbell@lwsd.org](mailto:mcampbell@lwsd.org), with questions.

- ✓ Resume Builder
- ✓ Career Path Choices
- ✓ Senior Final Transcript
- ✓ Any Missing CORE lessons from previous years

### Summer before Senior Year

- Be active; get a job, internship, or volunteer to boost your resume.
- Go online to request college view books, application forms, scholarship information, and financial aid information from your selected college list. (Make sure all applications are dated for the appropriate filing year as a new freshman.)
- Visit the campuses of your top college choices.
- Gather application materials from colleges.
- Start brainstorming on admission essays.
- Start your list of colleges. By the end of summer, you should have narrowed your list down to 10-12.
- Common Application – Many colleges use the Common Application, found online. You can register a Common App account and become familiar with it over summer.
- Register for the **SAT or ACT (check to see if the schools you're applying to are moving to test-optional)**
- Visit College Campuses that you're interested in. (Virtual visits are available too!)

### September

- Take charge in your extracurricular activities and continue to demonstrate leadership.
- If you have not already, make sure you are registered to take either the **SAT or ACT** and study for the tests. **(Check to see if the schools you're applying to are moving to test-optional)**
  - Check out the SAT/ACT Test Prep in Xello
  - You can also check out SAT/ACT prep books in the College & Career Center
- Finalize your college list. Narrow your list of colleges to between 5 and 10.
- Begin your college applications.
- Meet with a counselor about your post-secondary choices.
  - If you plan to get in the workforce immediately or want to obtain technical trade skills, check in with your counselor and Mrs. Rodland to learn about your resources.
- Attend virtual college visits and don't be afraid to contact college representatives for more information.

### October

- Student Aid (FAFSA) applications open on October 1<sup>st</sup>. The earlier the application, the better. Applications can be submitted at [www.FAFSA.ed.gov](http://www.FAFSA.ed.gov). Eligibility for several Washington State financial aid programs has

expanded to include students who are ineligible for federal financial aid due to immigration status.

Washington Application for State Financial Aid ([WASFA](#)) is Washington State Financial Aid for DREAMers.

- Create a master list or calendar that includes all relevant application due dates.
- Check in with teachers, counselors, employers, community members, or coaches you've asked for recommendations and provide them with materials and deadlines.
- Check the College & Career Center Teams pages each week for new scholarships. Also check out [www.thewashboard.org](http://www.thewashboard.org) for scholarships.
- Work on final draft of essays. Have one of your teachers review it.
- Attend and participate in school High School & Beyond Events.

### November

- Attend a virtual college fair presented by NACAC <https://virtualcollegefairs.org/>.
- Order and send official ACT or SAT scores and your high school transcript to all the colleges you're applying to.
- Early Decision/Early Action applications need to be completed and mailed.
- Parents should prepare to complete the CSS/Profile for financial aid as early as November if you plan on applying to private colleges.
- If you haven't already, sign up for the SAT/ACT. December will be your last chance to take these tests! **(Check to see if the schools you're applying to are moving to test-optional)**

### December

- Submit all application materials before deadlines.
- Confirm materials have been received by colleges, including letters of recommendation, official scores, transcripts, etc.

### January - February

- Apply to any additional colleges you're still considering.
- Continue to keep up your grades as you wait to hear decisions from schools.
- After receiving your first semester grades, request an official transcript and mail it to the colleges you've applied to.
- Kick scholarship search into full gear. Use College & Career Center resources!

### March

- Watch your mail between March 1 and April 1 for acceptance notifications from 4-year colleges and universities. Compare financial aid awards you receive. Don't be afraid to negotiate your award with the financial aid department of the college. Ask Mrs. Rodland for more info.

### April

- Visit colleges to which you've been accepted to if you still need help making a decision.
- Keep an eye out for financial aid award letters around April and consider appealing if you have not been awarded a fair amount by a particular college.

### May

- Decide on a college and send the Enrollment Confirmation Form no later than May 1.
- Make final decision by May 1 and let your counselor know which college you're planning on attending.
- If you have won any scholarships, please indicate the amount and name of your award and give this information to Mrs. Rodland in the College & Career Center.
- Thank you letters: make sure that you take the time to write thank you letters to those who wrote letters of recommendation and those who helped you with this process (teachers, parents, coaches, counselors, etc).

### June & Summer before College

- GRADUATION: CONGRATS!
- As part of your senior checkout, you must let Mrs. Hamilton know where to send your final transcript. This means you must let her know which college to send it to!
- Housing: if you're living on campus, make sure that you know where you'll be living in the fall. Check your college email to stay in the know!
- Register for classes: as soon as you can, start registering for classes. Talk with an advisor and see which classes are going to be the best for you!
- Roommate: if you're living on campus, make sure to contact your future roommate and connect!