

The Step-by-Step Guide to College Planning



Radford School
2001 Radford Street
El Paso, Texas 79903

Radford's College Entrance Examination Board (CEEB)/ACT Code: 442240

Junior Year

September

- Start thinking about college choices.
- Apply for Junior Scholarships.
- Continue (or begin) to be involved in school and community service activities.
- Increase leadership skills (become an elected officer or volunteer to chair a committee).

October

- Take the PSAT test and start **studying** for the SAT and/or ACT.

January

- Watch for meaningful summer enrichment programs.
- Take the SAT and/or ACT Test.
- Plan a challenging senior year. Students who take challenging courses are better prepared for college.

April

- Take (or re-take) the SAT and/or ACT Test.
- Will you participate in Division I or Division II sports? If yes, fill out the NCAA Clearinghouse form: <http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net/>

June

- Take (or re-take) the SAT and/or ACT test.
- Develop a resume (list extra-curricular activities, accomplishments, etc.)
- Request recommendation letters from teachers or counselors.
- Begin writing your college essay.

Senior Year

September

- Attend your Senior Interview with Mrs. McLaughlin to discuss college plans.
- Attend college visits to gain more information.
- Radford will host numerous college visits, but plan to attend visits at other high school campuses as well.
- Go over SAT and ACT scores to determine if you should retake these tests.
- Meet with Mrs. McLaughlin to discuss financing college.
- Check on application deadlines for colleges. Make a list of application requirements.
- Check in the Counseling Center for information and applications for private scholarships.

October

- Check deadlines and pay for Advanced Placement (AP) Exams.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). The application is available online on October 1.
- Create an account (FSA ID) for the FAFSA application at <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>
- Attend the Financial Aid Seminar at the school with your parents.

- Retake SAT and/or ACT if needed.

September-November

- Complete all college admissions, financial aid and scholarship applications.
- Complete CSS PROFILE, if required (check with your college). The CSS Profile is an online application used by colleges and scholarship programs to award Institutional (their own) aid.
- Apply to at least one “safe” college (a college you know that you will be admitted to, and one that you can definitely afford).

January

- Continue applying for private scholarships. Applications are in the Counseling Center.

April-May

- Compare financial aid packages and decide which college to attend.
- Send in housing deposits, sign and return award letters.
- Notify other colleges of your decision.
- Mr. Martinez will send final transcript to the college.
- Continue applying for private scholarships.



College Representatives generally discuss matters associated with the admission and financial aid processes. Students must sign up in the Counseling Center with Mrs. McLaughlin in order to obtain a pass to attend. Students need to do this at least two days prior to the meeting date. All College Representative meetings will

take place in the Library unless otherwise specified.