

College Application Process Suggested Timeline

Junior Year

January

- Determine date(s) to take the ACT and/or SAT (see other side).
- Research career opportunities, using Naviance and other resources.
- College representatives begin to visit North. Sign up for college visits on Naviance

February

- Start college search in earnest. Use college search program on Naviance.
- Register for the April ACT test and/or March SAT test.

March

- In school, complete the SAT exam (April 10).
- See your counselor if you have questions regarding your college search.
- Use college websites for more in-depth research.
- Consider college campus visits in conjunction with Spring Break travel.
- Meet with college representatives visiting North.
- Attend the College Fair at North Central College on Monday, March 18, 2018, 6-8:00 p.m. It features nearly 200 in-state and out-of-state colleges and universities.

April

- Register for the June ACT and/or June SAT test.
- Continue to monitor college representative visits at North.
- Become familiar with the financial aid process. Information is available in the CC.
- Explore colleges in more detail.
- **IF** you will need a recommendation from a junior teacher, ask now to get on his or her list.

May

- Start to narrow your college choices by using all materials available, including computer search programs, college visit notes, reference books, etc.

Senior Year

August

- Small group meetings with your counselor to discuss application process in detail.
- If pursuing an athletic scholarship, complete an NCAA application form available online at www.ncaa.org Eligibility Center and turn in NCAA forms and transcript request to the Registrar.

September

- Register for the ACT and/or SAT if you have not yet taken them or you want to improve your score.
- **Complete applications. Most college applications are online.**
- Analyze application instructions to determine information required and deadlines.
- If applying for early decision/action, acquire and complete the necessary forms.
- Complete CSS/Profile financial aid form – appropriate for selected schools only.
- Internet scholarship search may be accessed by using www.fastweb.com , www.collegezone.com , www.Scholarships.com , or Naviance.
- Meet with college representatives visiting North.
- Parents attend Financial Aid Night (hosted by WN date TBD).

October

- Submit online application for Federal Aid (FAFSA), or other individual college financial aid forms as soon after October 1st as possible. These forms will require tax information.
- Check out the scholarship bulletin that is posted monthly in the counseling office.
- Attend College Fair at College of DuPage.
- Register for SAT Subject tests if your colleges recommend or require them.
- Schedule college campus visits.
- Apply early to colleges that have a rolling admissions policy

November

- Use Thanksgiving as a target date for completion of college applications.
- Be aware of the November 1st early action deadline.

December

- Continue to investigate sources of financial aid.
- Prepare for semester final exams. These grades may be important to colleges considering your application.

January

- Finish the semester strong, study for finals.

February

- Complete common application for local scholarships and turn them into the Counseling Center in **February 2019** (specific date TBD—will be in planner).
- Be aware of application deadlines for college housing.

April

- Evaluate college acceptance letters and select the best college for you. Advise all other colleges of your decision by May 1st.

May

- Fill out a request for your final transcript to be sent to the college you will be attending in the fall. This will be done via Naviance on the senior survey.

Application Process

1. Complete online (may do paper application if available)
2. Letters of recommendation may be necessary. To request that a teacher write a letter:
 - a. Give the writer a minimum of three weeks – We require an October 1 request deadline.
 - b. Use the teacher letter of recommendation form available in the counseling office.
3. Fill out a Transcript Request Form (green form in Counseling Center or print from North website)
4. When college application is completed and the college is added to your “Colleges I am Applying to” list on Naviance, give transcript request form and \$5 fee to your counselor.
5. Contact ACT/SAT to have test scores sent.

Financial Aid Facts

<p>1. Sources of Aid</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Federal and State Programs b. Post-Secondary schools c. Private agencies d. Local & National Organizations 	<p>2. Sources of Information</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Publications available in Counseling Center and libraries b. College computer search c. Scholarship page on Naviance d. Financial Aid Night Fall 2018 e. FAFSA Completion Nights, dates tbd. 	<p>3. Basis of Aid</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Merit: can be academic, ethnic, special talents, and athletic prowess. b. Need: computed using FAFSA forms submitted after Oct 1st, 2018
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TESTING DATES

ACT Test

ACT Test Date	Registration Date
February 9, 2019	January 11, 2019
April 13, 2019	March 8, 2019
June 8, 2019	May 3, 2019
July 13, 2019	June 14, 2019

SAT Test

SAT Test Date	Registration Date
March 9, 2019	February 8, 2019
May 4, 2019	April 5, 2019
June 1, 2019	May 3, 2019

It is recommended that college bound students take the ACT and/or SAT in late spring of their junior year. To qualify for Honorary Illinois State Scholar Program, the ACT must be taken in February, April or June of the junior year.