

# **HAMBURG AREA HIGH SCHOOL**

## **POST-SECONDARY PLANNING TIMELINE FOR SENIORS**

**12<sup>th</sup>**

**Fall**

- Use the HAHS Counselors Webpage. LOTS of helpful information all available online. During COVID, it is invaluable to be resourceful and put it in the time to do your research.
- **HAHS Senior Presentation**, Powerpoint: Available on the HS Counselor Webpage College & Career TAB
- **HAHS Senior Parent Virtual Q&A**, Oct 27 @ 6pm or Oct 28 @ 9am (College information session)
- Dual Enrollment and AP registration deadlines...Check your emails, listen in Advisory, ask your counselor.
- **Check out the virtual college fair opportunities**: NACAC, PACAC, StriveScan- posted on HAHS Counselor Webpage
- Register for an SAT [www.sat.org](http://www.sat.org) / or ACT [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) (*Most Colleges are Test optional due to COVID*)
  - ✓ Be sure to select “score recipients” to send your SAT and/or ACT scores so that the schools you are applying to receive both upcoming and past score reports. \$12/report and it takes weeks.
  - ✓ Hamburg Area HS CEEB code: 391620
- Take a full, challenging course load and keep working on your grades. Make sure you have taken the courses necessary to graduate in the spring.
- Continue to participate in extracurricular and volunteer activities. Demonstrate initiative, creativity, commitment, and leadership in each.
- Male students: you must register for selective service on your eighteenth birthday to be eligible for federal and state financial aid.
- Talk to counselors, teachers, and parents about your final college choices. **Apply to a minimum of 3 -5 schools no later than Thanksgiving.** (*apply to a variety of schools including good match, safety, and reach*)
- Make a calendar showing application deadlines for admission, financial aid, and scholarships.
- Complete application(s) and send all required documents (*requirements may vary with each college*):
  - **Application**: Complete online through college website OR Common Application
  - **Application Fee**: \$\$ Pay online for each application (some schools offer fee waivers)
  - **Transcript**: Go to [www.parchment.com](http://www.parchment.com) to request official transcripts
  - **SAT/ACT required?**: Send test scores to colleges from the SAT or ACT site (CEEb code 391-620)
  - **Essay/Personal Statement required?**: Make it exciting, have it proof-read
  - **Portfolio? Writing Sample? Interview?**: Know the requirements
  - **Give your counselor any additional or required forms at least two weeks before they are due.**
- **Check resources and free internet sites for information on scholarships and grants** ([www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com), [www.hasdhawks.org](http://www.hasdhawks.org) and [www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org) ). Do not pay for scholarship information. Ask colleges about scholarships for which you may qualify. Mrs. Fink updates the **scholarship page on our website** often.
- **Give recommendation forms to the teachers you have chosen two weeks before you plan to send your application.** Talk to your recommendation writers about your goals and ambitions.
- **If you are able visit colleges in person or participate virtually.** Pink College Visit form to excuse attendance on days that you miss school, located in Guidance Office.
- **Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid FAFSA** <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov> after October 1.
- Complete the CSS Profile only if your school requires it. Visit [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) for the application.

## Still undecided?

- Consider an apprenticeship program: Carpenter Union (Lebanon & Allentown #167), Electrical (IBEW Local 743), Elevator Union (Local 84), Finishing Trades/Drywall (Council 21), Fire Sprinkler Union (#692), Ironworkers Union (Local 489), Plumbers (Local 524), Roofers (Local 30), Sheet Metal (Local 19-Hamburg location)....to name a few [www.apprentice.org/northeast.html](http://www.apprentice.org/northeast.html) Contact Ms. Benz or Mr. Spohn for details!
- ROTC scholarship applications are due by December 1.
- **Read the Counselor Connection page on our website monthly for important information and updates.**
- Check your email and admissions offices to ensure that you have provided all required materials to the college.
- Complete any remaining applications before winter break. Make sure you apply to at least one college that you know you can afford and where you know you will be accepted.
- **Follow up by phone or e-mail and contact the colleges directly to make sure that they have received all application information, including recommendations and test scores.** Keep in mind materials do take a few weeks to process as 'received' at the school.
- **If you have an 85% cumulative GPA or higher, be sure to complete the Esther Ludwig Scholarship Application before you leave for winter break. 80% cum GPA or higher for students attending trade/technical school.**

- Compare the financial aid packages from the colleges and universities that have accepted you.
- **Make your final college choice and send your deposit to by May 1.**
- Be sure that you have received a FAFSA acknowledgment.
- If you applied for a Pell Grant (on the FAFSA), you will receive the Student Aid (SAR) statement. Review this Pell notice, and forward it to the college you plan to attend. Make a copy for your record.
- Complete follow-up paperwork for the college of your choice (scheduling, orientation session, housing arrangements, and other necessary forms).

### **HELPFUL WEBSITES**

[www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com) – College search and information

[www.careercruising.com](http://www.careercruising.com) – Career Portfolio, college & career search

[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) – Big Future, college search, SAT

[www.educationplanner.com](http://www.educationplanner.com) – College search, financial aid, & careers

[www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) – Scholarships

[www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org) – Guide for college financial aid

[www.pheaa.org](http://www.pheaa.org) – Financial Aid

[www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov) – Official website for the FAFSA and financial aid resources and information

[www.unigo.com](http://www.unigo.com) – Scholarship & grant search

**Congratulations! You are about to begin the greatest adventure of your life.**

***Be sure to visit the High School Counselor page at [www.hasdhawks.org](http://www.hasdhawks.org) often. Good luck.***