

East Canton High School

College Planning Month-by-Month

August

- ✓ List your top college choices.
- ✓ Request admissions information and school catalogs.
- ✓ Schedule visits to colleges.
- ✓ Compare costs of each school that interests you.

September/October

- ✓ Submit your college applications.
- ✓ Search and apply for scholarships from a variety of sources, including your college(s) of choice. ** Remember to utilize the East Canton counseling website!
- ✓ Check with the college(s) to see if you need to complete a College Scholarship Services (CSS) profile or a Financial Aid Form.

November/December

- ✓ Get your FSA ID on <https://fsaid.ed.gov> – both students and parent need a FSA ID. The FSA ID process has three main steps: 1. Enter login information – you will be asked to create a unique username and password. 2. Enter personal information (this will include your social security number). 3. Submission of your FSA ID application.
- ✓ Gather data needed for the FAFSA.
- ✓ Use fafsa4caster.ed.gov and Net Price Calculator on college websites to determine costs for going to college.

January

- ✓ Complete the FAFSA online at fafsa.ed.gov as soon as possible after January 1. ** Please remember, you do not need to wait for your tax information – fill out the FAFSA using the previous year's tax info, submit, and then go back and fill in the new information when you receive your most current tax information.
- ✓ Then check with your top colleges for FAFSA, institutional and state aid priority deadlines.

February/March

Look in the mail for:

- ✓ Student Aid Report
- ✓ Financial Aid award letter

April/May

- ✓ Make your final selection of the college you want to attend.
- ✓ Send in deposit by the required deadline.
- ✓ Consider all funding options to cover costs of college after reviewing award letter.

June/July

- ✓ Determine how much additional money you may need to pay for college expenses.
- ✓ After exhausting grants, scholarships, and other aid-if you have additional expenses-consider applying for a private student loan to help cover your education costs.