

ALWAYS READ YOUR EMAIL!

Planning Your Course of Study for Senior Year

Before you choose your courses for next year, you should begin researching college requirements. Some colleges are more particular than others requiring specific courses. For example, Texas schools require Economics and usually expect Biology, Chemistry, and Physics for admission. Also your senior year is the time to consider, if you qualify, taking a concurrent enrollment course, Career Internship, or something at Tulsa Tech.

Be sure you take a challenging curriculum. Senior year is not the time to slack off. Stay involved in extra-curricular activities and community service. Plan ahead to spend part of your summer doing something that will strengthen your resume. Get a job, take a class, attend a program on a college campus, volunteer, job shadow, or arrange an internship. It is okay to have fun but fit something productive in there too.

Potential College Athletes

If you are interested in continuing your sport at the college level, you need to register with the NCAA Eligibility Center. Once you register, we will upload your transcript to the site and you will need to have your ACT/SAT scores sent. College coaches need access to this information before they recruit you. Register at www.ncaa.org.

Required Forms

To work with you on your college plans and to write letters of recommendation, we need information about you. Before you leave for the summer, we need you to complete a student questionnaire and develop a resume. We would love to have your parents complete the parent response form. Links to these items can be found on the Bishop Kelley website under Academics, then Counseling on the first page in the paragraph titled "Senior Forms".

Standardized Tests (ACT & SAT)

All colleges and universities accept either the ACT or SAT. Oklahoma traditionally has leaned more toward the ACT which is why we register all juniors to take the ACT on April 24, 2018. National test dates for the ACT are in February, April, June, July, September, October, and December. For the national dates, you will have to register at www.act.org. Be sure to list the Bishop Kelley school code (373620) when you register so that your scores will come to us.

We recommend that you take the optional writing portion in case your college requires it. When you register for the ACT, take advantage of the opportunity to list four schools that you want to receive your scores. You are paying for this service so you might as well use it. Your scores will arrive faster and this will satisfy the colleges who want to get your scores directly from the testing agency. Some

colleges will *superscore* which means they take the highest section scores from different test dates. For this reason, it is best to send all of your scores.

If you wish to take the SAT you can register at www.collegeboard.com. Due to changes on the SAT, it is similar to the ACT now. Both sites offer free study materials and practice tests if you want to try one of each to see which you prefer. SAT Subject tests are typically only required by the more selective colleges and universities. If you see this is required, we recommend taking the test when you finish taking the class in school so the material is fresh. Read college requirements carefully to see which subject tests they require. You will register for SAT subject tests on www.collegeboard.com too.

Campus Visits

This semester is a good time to begin visiting college campuses. Watch the bulletin we send out each week for special campus events that you can attend. College visits may be scheduled online or by calling the admissions office. If there is something special you want to do like attend a class, spend the night in the residence hall or speak with a professor, you need to call early as special requests take time to arrange.

Consider going on a day when you are out of school so that you can see a typical college day. You have the following days off this spring (Feb. 16/19, March 19-23/30, April 2/6. While some of these are holidays or Spring Break for us, you might find some colleges open for business as usual. Even if you have no idea which colleges you are considering, get out there and look somewhere. Maybe visit a small school and then a large one to see which you prefer. *Check the Junior Folder on the BK website for tips on who to see and what to ask when you visit.*

Transcripts

All juniors will set up a Parchment account to order transcripts. Parchment is used to send transcripts to coaches, summer programs, colleges, and yourself. The exception to this is if you apply to college using the Common Application. For those applications, your college counselor will upload your transcript to your Common Application account.

Scholarships & Financial Aid

The cost of your college education is something you and your parents should discuss before you begin your search. College websites will have a net price calculator tool that allows you to enter personal financial information and see how much that school will cost and how much aid, if any, you could expect to receive.

Financial aid applications (FAFSA, CSS Profile) will not be available until October 1, 2018, but you can begin looking into scholarships now. There are a number of websites that allow you to set up a profile and they filter the scholarship offers sending you those that you might qualify for. You can find a handout of scholarship sites in the Junior folder on the BK website as well as a link on the Counseling page for scholarships offered this year. More information about scholarships will come out in the weekly bulletins that juniors and their parents receive.

