

# WHAT I NEED TO DO – AND WHEN – TO GET THIS WHOLE COLLEGE BALL ROLLING IN MY SENIOR YEAR OF HIGH SCHOOL (Thanks to my friends at Thiel College)

## Right before senior year starts:

- ✓ Start researching schools and visit their websites, including [www.thiel.edu](http://www.thiel.edu).
- ✓ Register for the September ACT tests, if applicable.
- ✓ Start scheduling campus visits.
- ✓ Make a pledge to do well academically and stay involved in extracurricular activities.

## September

- ✓ Make sure your high school classes are what you need for college requirements. If not, get them changed.
- ✓ Register for October or November SAT exams, or the October ACT test, if applicable.
- ✓ Request letters of recommendation from teachers and advisers. They're busy and may not get to them right away. The earlier you ask, the better.
- ✓ Try for leadership positions in clubs and organizations. Take the responsibility seriously.
- ✓ **Apply to Thiel College with our free online application at [www.thiel.edu](http://www.thiel.edu).**

## October

- ✓ Take the SATs or ACTs, as applicable.
- ✓ Continue to research schools and narrow your list to about six.
- ✓ Request your high school transcript and make sure it is accurate. Keep a file of this and all other important papers – test scores, recommendation letters, awards and financial aid information. An incomplete college application is a worthless college application.
- ✓ **Schedule a visit to Thiel by calling 1-800-248-4435. Did you know you can apply, be accepted and know your cost estimate all in one day and as soon as you apply?**

## November

- ✓ Register for the December SAT or ACT exams, if applicable. Or take the November SAT, if applicable.
- ✓ Submit **all** requested materials to schools with November deadlines.
- ✓ **Begin researching scholarships. Most high school guidance counselors will tell you that hundreds of scholarships go unrewarded every year because students do not know they exist. You can get financial help because of your grades, athletic ability, artistic talents, relatives' military service and your ethnic background, just to name a few. Is there any aid available through your parents' employers? Filling out the forms takes time, BUT IS WORTH IT.**
- ✓ **Still haven't scheduled that Thiel visit? Do it.**

## December-January

- ✓ Continue to do well and stay active. Avoid second-semester senioritis!
- ✓ Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Financial Aid) **AFTER JAN. 1.**
- ✓ Have all test scores and midterm grades sent to colleges in which you are interested.
- ✓ Complete any and all college applications – this is it!

## February-March

- ✓ If you submitted the FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report. Look it over carefully for errors.
- ✓ Acceptance letters may begin to arrive. Schedule campus visits.
- ✓ Continue applying for scholarships.
- ✓ **Apply to Thiel if you have not done so. If you have expressed an interest but we have not heard from you by April 3, we will remove your name from consideration.**

## **April**

- ✓ Firm things up. Appeal a rejection from a college in which you are interested. Learn more about waitlists if you have been told you are in that category.
- ✓ Notify colleges that have accepted you and that you have ruled out. This is a courtesy and will allow them to move ahead with plans for other students.

## **May**

- ✓ Confirm deposit deadline at chosen college.
- ✓ Take any appropriate AP exams.
- ✓ Send thank you letters to all who helped you make this gigantic step.
- ✓ Keep track of college loan applications and scholarship awards.
- ✓ Plan graduation party.