

VALE Timeline for Students and Parents



Vermont
Academy

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Sophomore Year

In October, sophomores will take the PSAT if needed. The school will help register students for this test.

Prior to course registration in the spring, the advisors and college counselors will talk with students about what to consider when choosing courses for junior year; rigor, continue with foreign language, college entrance requirements, etc.

Junior Year

October Family Days – parent and student meet with college counselor during this month. Parents should also fill out a Parent Form to help us learn more about their child.

Juniors (and sophomores) take the PSAT in the fall if they take them. In December, advisors assist students in reviewing scores. In the spring, juniors take their first round of the SAT and ACT.

In early February, juniors are assigned a college counselor. Students will learn about the different types of colleges, the search tools, the application process and work on the principles that help them define their areas of interest. This work will help them create their list of colleges they are “thinking about”.

Beginning in March, students meet with their individual counselors, make prospective lists of schools, discuss senior year course selection and plan of action. Students can sign up for as many meetings as they wish.

During the Spring break, we hope juniors can visit one or two colleges/universities, if not due to COVID, they could do so virtually. Students should attend an “information session” and take the “tour” of campus. Sign up on the college’s admission web page.

In April, the junior class can check online college fairs.

By mid-May, juniors should ask two teachers for a letter of recommendation; one from the humanities class and one from the math/science areas. Counselors will talk this through with students if they are having trouble deciding which teacher to ask.

By May, international students whose first language is not English should take the TOEFL. During the spring trimester, most juniors will write a personal memoir as part of their English class. Sometimes, this is a catalyst for their college essay.

At any time, parents are encouraged to email or call the college counseling office whenever they wish. We also are happy to meet with parents if you are coming to campus or are going through the area over the summer.

Over the summer, rising seniors should draft college essays and feel free to send them to their counselor. Summer is a good time to do test undertake prep classes or on-line training for the ACT or SAT.

Register for the August and/or October SAT. Register for the September ACT.

Senior Year

August – Upon start of the school year - seniors can continue to sign up for an individual meeting with their counselor at any time.

September/October - Students meet on a regular basis with their counselors, reviewing and honing their lists based on summer visits and on new information. Discuss visiting a college or two during October long weekend break or visit schools online.

September/October – Students continue to work on essays and seek advice from their English teacher and college counselor.

Standardized Testing dates happen throughout the fall, August SAT, September ACT, October SAT & ACT, November SAT, December SAT & ACT.

October – If a student is applying early we review applications with seniors who care to share with us. We will continue to review and advise on applications through January.

By October, all students should have asked for teacher letters of recommendation. If applying early, this should be done by September 1.

October 1 – FAFSA, the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is available for the current admissions cycle. Any family wishing to be considered for any financial aid should complete the FAFSA.

October – Family Days – Parent and student meet with college counselor during this month.

November – Most colleges with an early action or early decision have a November deadline. By November 30 – Confirm your list of colleges in Naviance. December/January – applications should be completed and submitted along with FAFSA and CSS Profile (financial aid applications).

January, February, March – Notify your counselor of the news you have received from your colleges.

February – Write thank you notes to the teachers/advisors who have written your letters of recommendation.

February, March, April – Revisit colleges as you make your final decision. May 1 – final date to make a deposit at your college of choice.

All students

January: We offer a college fair for students to learn more about different colleges and opportunities. These are national and international colleges.

Mid-September: A guest speaker (via zoom or in person depending on Covid) will hold a seminar to talk to students about university options in Spain and abroad

October: Family meeting with counselor

November: students can attend a seminar on how to choose a college and university based on interests and skills

February: A guest speaker will come speak to students about career plans and possibilities.