



College Planning Calendar for International Students

As international students consider the college planning process, here are some points to consider and recommendations to help students prepare for college admissions:

1. **Be Involved** – LMH has great opportunities for extracurricular involvements that colleges consider valuable. We encourage international students to participate in areas such as sports, dramas, student clubs, music and volunteer service opportunities. Talk to a teacher or a counselor who can help you identify a good place to become involved.
2. **Practice English** – The best way to prepare for college is to read, write and speak English. This will help international students prepare for the SAT/TOEFL tests and will aid in the social transition to college life.
3. **Begin Early** – Often the college planning process for international students is more involved and typically requires many steps along with the regular application.
4. **Prepare for Tests** – Adequate SAT and TOEFL scores are necessary for acceptance into college. There are many ways to prepare for these tests. Along with speaking, writing and reading English – there are online resources and preparation classes available to prepare for these tests.
5. **Course Selection** – Take rigorous courses throughout each year of high school. LMH offers many advanced, honors and advanced placement courses. School counselors can serve as a support for course selection.
6. **International students who regularly associate with native English speakers** can score higher on SAT and TOEFL. Many international students make the serious mistake of spending most of their time speaking their first language with students from their own country.

General Timeline

**Recommended Each Year of High School

Grades 9 & 10

- Become familiar with the college admissions process**
- Begin to explore all possibilities, both selective and less selective schools**
- Connect with college representatives when they are visiting LMH**
- Take rigorous courses**
- Read, write and speak English. This is best accomplished by surrounding yourself with native English speakers.**
- Meet with your school counselor**
- Take assessments in October
- Attend local college fairs**
- Begin to see what specific colleges require for admissions. This includes SAT scores, TOEFL scores, and other requirements.**
- Take career and personality assessments**

Grade 11

- Take PSAT in October
- Take SAT twice in the spring semester (once in January and again near the end of the school year)
- Take TOEFL – Near the end of your junior year (before returning to your home country) is probably a good time.
- Attend and participate in Shadow Day and College/Career Fair
- Determine which colleges are a good fit for **you** – start to narrow down your list
- Start working on a college essay
- Consider who you will ask to write recommendations
- Start developing a college resume
- Plan for potential summer college visits and/or college camps
- Request applications from your list of suitable/realistic colleges
- Have a good understanding of the admissions requirements for your suitable/realistic colleges

Grade 12

- You should come into your senior year with already having an SAT and TOEFL score
- If you want to take the SAT and TOEFL again, you need to complete this early in the senior year
- When meeting with your school counselor in September, you should have a list of realistic schools – take note of the admission deadlines (consider early decision or early action)
- Completed applications by Thanksgiving which include:
 - Application
 - Student Essay
 - Test Scores
 - Transcript (if you transferred into high school from your home country, some colleges will require your high school transcript from your home country along with your transcript from LMH)
 - Recommendations
 - Family's Financial Documents
 - Portfolio (typically for music or art students)
 - If taken, AP scores (scores should be sent directly through the College Board's website)
- Process financial aid and scholarship possibilities with the college's international advisor

Detailed Timeline for Seniors

August Prior To Your Senior Year

- Request applications and information from colleges
- Visit school campuses throughout the summer to help narrow down choices
- Look into overnight or weekend college visitation programs
- Take note of upcoming SAT and ACT registration and test dates

September

- Receive college information at a senior class meeting
 - College Planning Calendar for Seniors
 - Instructions & Guidelines for Seniors regarding the College application process
 - College Application Checklist

- Complete the “Senior Information for Seniors” and “Parent Information for Seniors” paper that you received at the senior class meeting – completed forms need to be returned to the guidance office as soon as possible
- Visit the Guidance Career Center on campus to take advantage of the many useful resources
- Make sure your family receives the monthly email newsletter from the guidance office
- Mark your calendar for local college fairs and when admissions representatives visit campus – a complete list of admission rep visitations are on the bulletin board outside the guidance office and are posted online in the guidance section of LMS’s website
- Schedule your senior interview with your counselor
- International Seniors can attend an after school International Senior College Planning meeting
- Create a master list or calendar that includes:
 - SAT or ACT test dates, fees and registration deadlines
 - College application due dates
 - Financial aid application forms required and their deadlines
- Visit websites for free test prep and practice exams for the SAT and ACT
- Register for the SAT or ACT
- Visit college campuses – make sure you fill out an Educational Excuse Form 5 days prior to your visit if you are visiting on a school day – you may get this form from the main high school office or on the school’s website

October

- Begin completing college applications and essays
- Visit the Guidance Career Center on campus to take advantage of the many useful resources
- Ask teachers and your school counselor to complete recommendation letters and forms – please give them at least 2 weeks to complete these forms
- Request transcripts from the guidance office and letters of recommendations from teachers
- Meet with your school counselor for your senior interview
- Attend local college fairs in Lancaster County and surrounding public schools
- Continue to meet with college admission representatives that come on campus
- Attend the evening college financial aid & FAFSA seminar night on campus with your family
- Explore scholarship information online – check out the ‘resource’ page of LMS’s guidance website
- If needed, take the SAT or ACT that you may have registered to take

November

- Complete college applications by Thanksgiving
- Try to finalize your college choices
- Give counselors and the guidance office 7-10 school days to send your transcript to colleges
- Meet with college admission representatives that come on campus
- Take the SAT or ACT that you may have registered to take – if needed
- If you still have not had your senior interview with your counselor, please schedule it now

December

- As you finish and send your applications and essays (before Christmas!), be sure to keep copies
- Contact the college’s financial aid office to see what student aid programs exist on a state or campus level
- Obtain any other financial aid forms that may be required by your target schools. Check with the financial aid offices to see if they have specific financial aid requirements and/or deadlines
- Prepare to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

January

- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) after January 1. This is required to be considered for most federal, state and college-based aid. The FAFSA serves as the application for the Pennsylvania State Grant Program. You can access the FAFSA online.
- Successfully complete your first semester courses
- Continue a rigorous course selection for second semester – accepting colleges do look at the second semester senior classes and grades which will be on your final high school transcript

February

- Submit all the necessary paperwork or applications for any private or outside scholarships you may have identified
- Be sure you have submitted all required forms: the college admissions application, the FAFSA, any private scholarships, and any state or school-specific forms required for financial aid
- Watch your email for your Student Aid Report (SAR). The SAR is the U.S. Department of Education's reply to your submitted FAFSA and summarizes your financial aid eligibility for federal programs

March

- Keep active in school – accepting colleges do look at the second semester senior classes and grades which will be on your final high school transcript
- If you are enrolled in an AP course, ask your teacher about the AP test in May
- Contact your college to see if they will accept your AP credit and what score is needed to receive college credit

April

- You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April.
- Make a final enrollment decision and submit enrollment deposit, if requested
- If a school accepted you but you will not be attending, notify the school of your decision not to attend
- Consider signing up to take AP exams if you are enrolled in an AP course

May

- Successfully complete second semester classes
- Request the guidance office to send your final high school transcript to the college you are attending
- The deadline for the Pennsylvania State Grant (FAFSA Application) is May 1 – check with the financial aid office to see if they have specific FAFSA application requirements and/or deadlines
- Take any AP exams you signed up to take

June & July

- Participate in commencement!
- Complete any remaining student aid forms
- Plan for college orientation, transportation and housing for the fall
- If you have not done so, request the guidance office to send your final high school transcript to the college you are attending