

1st Semester**1st Quarter (August - October)**

- Continue taking classes such as English literature, algebra/geometry, biology, world history, geography, foreign language, government, civics, economics, and the arts. The classes you take your senior year count too!
- Review your career plans and decide which type of school is right for you.
- Request applications and brochures from your target colleges if you haven't already. UB may have these resources available to you – just ask.
- Narrow your college list to 3-5 schools.
- Remember that you can obtain fee waivers for college applications from the UB office.
- Get your applications in order by creating files for your target schools. Make a list of application requirements (essays, transcripts, etc.) and deadlines for each.
- If letters of recommendations are required, send them along with a self-addressed, stamped envelope so your references can send them directly to the college you have chosen.
- Start applying for scholarships from private organizations. Check www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com to review scholarships available to you.
- Meet with admissions representatives who are visiting your school. (Remember, UB gives bonus points for attending these!)
- Remember that you must take the ACT at least six weeks before the deadline for scores to be submitted to colleges. (Don't forget you can obtain a one time fee waiver from UB for the registration fee)
- Be sure you have requested your ACT test scores to be sent to the colleges of your choice and also the Upward Bound office. Our ACT code is 9574.
- Work on admission and application essays.
- Visit your top school choices. Interview students, faculty, and staff.

1st Quarter (August - October) - continued

- Contact your guidance counselor about applying for national, state, and local scholarships.
- Attend special programs such as college fairs and financial aid nights.
- Talk to you parents about college cost. Decide how much you can afford and explore your options for funding.
- Find out which financial aid applications your college choices require and when the forms are due. Visit www.finaid.org to learn more about financial aid.
- See if any of the colleges you are considering offer an early financial aid estimate.
- Send your transcripts and test scores to your selected college. Make sure to arrange this two weeks before the due date to ensure they get there in time.
- Fill out the UB Senior Newsletter Questionnaire.

2nd Quarter (November & December)

- Begin preparing your college applications. Check with the colleges to find out when materials must be postmarked.
- Keep copies of all applications and forms sent to colleges. Make sure UB gets a copy too!
- Obtain financial aid applications from your guidance office or UB. Read them careful to determine what information is required and when the applications are due.
- Get a PIN for applying for federal aid online for you and your parents by going to www.pin.ed.gov
- Work on college applications! Many applications are due in December or early January.
- Pick up a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at your guidance office or UB staff. Begin working on it. Do not submit before January 1. (Remember UB will offer a FAFSA workshop in February)
- PARENTS: Save your year-end payroll stub if it shows your earnings for the year. You may need

2nd Semester

3rd Quarter (January & February)

- Continue to focus on your schoolwork. Now is definitely not the time to start being a slacker!
- Submit your completed FAFSA by March 1. You may complete your FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Give UB a copy of your Estimated Family Contribution (EFC) given to you when submitting your FAFSA online.
- KEEP COPIES OF ALL FORMS YOU SUBMIT.
- Check with your prospective colleges about additional financial aid application forms and requirements.
- PARENTS: It's helpful to get your income tax returns prepared early – schools may request them to prove eligibility for financial aid.
- Verify that colleges have received your applications and that UB has received a copy of at least three.
- Check to see if your mid-year transcripts have been sent to the schools to which you have applied.
- Rank your finalized list of colleges.
- Send thank-you notes to your recommendation sources.
- Go to www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com to review scholarships available to you.

4th Quarter (March – May)

- Look for your Student Aid Report (SAR) in the mail or via e-mail. Your SAR contains federal financial aid information.
- Submit SAR and tax forms to the financial aid office if requested. Contact each office to make certain that your application is complete. Find out what else you need to do to establish and maintain your eligibility for financial aid.
- Keep copies of all forms you submit to the financial aid office.
- If you have not received your SAR four weeks after sending your FAFSA, contact the Federal Student Aid Information Center at (319) 337-5665.
- Watch for acceptance letters from colleges starting March 1–April 1.
- Watch for notifications of financial aid awards between April 1–May 1.

4th Quarter (March – May) - continued

- Submit a copy of at least four college scholarships to the UB office by April 15.
- Compare your admissions offers, especially financial aid packages. Ask your guidance counselor or UB staff to help you weigh your options.
- Contact financial aid office if you have any special financial aid circumstances.
- Start saving for the summer bridge deposit. \$20 per credit hour.
- Plan your summer internship with UB.
- Time for a decision! Most schools ask that you choose your school by May 1.
- Make your final decision and send in a deposit by the deadline.
- Check with the college you've chosen about the details of signing and returning financial aid award letters.
- Notify in writing the schools that you will not be attending.
- Make sure you've received the necessary forms for housing, health insurance, financial aid, etc.
- Watch for important deadlines at your chosen college (housing, financial aid, etc.).
- Complete follow up information from your college, which would include scheduling, orientation sessions, housing arrangements, and other necessary forms.
- Pursue additional student loan options (UB will offer a student loan workshop in March).
- Sign twelve record release forms for UB & Complete the necessary Exit interview with UB and Senior Tracks Forms.

Summer (June & July)

- If you wish to borrow money from a lending institution, now is the time to start planning. Also, you may want to apply for a Stafford Loan and allow eight weeks for processing.
- Get the orientation schedule and residence hall assignment from your college.
- Meet with your college advisor if possible to start scheduling for the fall semester's classes.
- Have your final transcripts sent to your new school.