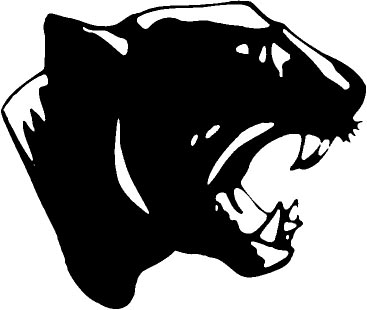
**Madison Senior Planning Guide**

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**Madison C-3 High School**

**309 S. Thomas St.**

**Madison, MO 65263**

**(660) 291-4515**

Lauren Jones, M.Ed., K-12 School Counselor

[ljones@madison.k12.mo.us](mailto:ljones@madison.k12.mo.us)

**Graduation Requirements**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Courses** | **Required Credits** |
| Language Arts | 4 |
| Mathematics | 3 or 4 for college prep |
| Social Studies | 3 |
| Science | 3 |
| Physical Education | 1 |
| Health | .5 |
| Personal Finance | .5 |
| Practical Art | 1 |
| Fine Art | 1 |
| Electives | 7 |
|  |  |
| **Total** | **24** |

* **Some Universities/Colleges require 4 credits of mathematics.**
* **Some Universities/Colleges require 2 credits of the same foreign language.**
* **Check the University/College that you are interested in to ensure you meet the admission requirements.**

**Required Assessments**

|  |
| --- |
| **Algebra I EOC** |
| **Biology EOC** |
| **English II EOC** |
| **Government EOC** |
| **Missouri Constitution Test** |
| **US Constitution Test** |
| **Algebra II EOC (If Algebra I taken as 8th grader)** |

\*Information on these requirements can be found on your parent or student INow portal.\*

**Senior Year**

September

1. Use a calendar/planner to stay organized and keep track of important dates.
2. Narrow your college choices; see your school counselor for assistance; see list of college search websites in this packet.
3. **Register for October ACT**. If you are an A+ student who did not score at a proficient or advanced level on the EOC Algebra I exam, you will need a qualifying score on the math portion of the ACT to maintain A+ eligibility. See Mrs. Jones for additional information.
4. Students interested in Division I or Division II athletics must see Mrs. Jones to begin the **NCAA clearinghouse** process.
5. **GET INVOLVED YOUR SENIOR YEAR!** If you have not been involved in school or community activities now is the time to build your resume!
6. Focus on your academics and activities.
7. **College and military recruiters** frequently make visits to our campus in the commons during lunch hours/homeroom, etc. This is a great opportunity to gather information about different programs and schools.
8. Plan to **allocate time for college searches** and applications. It is a process that takes time, it can’t be done in a few minutes.
9. Ask **teachers and/or coaches to complete recommendations** for colleges that require them. Make your requests at least two weeks in advance of the due date.

**October**

1. **\*Visit** [**https://fafsa.ed.gov/**](https://fafsa.ed.gov/) **to submit a Free Application For Student Aid.** You must also create a **FSA ID (Federal Student Aid)** to complete the FAFSA, go to <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>.
2. **Discuss college costs** with your parent(s)/guardian(s) and how much they’re planning to contribute, and how to apply for financial aid.
3. Schedule **college campus visits** and/or interviews. You can take up to two excused visits with appropriate documentation and prior notification to the office.
4. Begin **writing essays** required for some applications.
5. Begin scholarship search and applications. Popular free website are listed in this packet. Many deadlines are in the fall so pay attention to those dates. **Local/popular scholarships will be placed in your mailbox in the counseling office.** Scholarships are added as new information becomes available during the school year, so check your mailbox weekly!
6. Register with Fast Web <http://www.fastweb.com/> or other scholarship websites.
7. **Familiarize yourself with deadlines** for colleges or programs. Each school has their own deadlines for scholarships and applications.

**November**

1. If you are **applying early action or early decision,** complete your applications; deadlines are usually between mid-November and December 1. Apply online, but make sure all materials are sent completed and on time, with necessary signatures, letters of recommendation if needed, and transcripts and test scores.
2. **Register for December ACT.** If you are an A+ student who did not score at a proficient or advanced level on the EOC Algebra I exam, you will need a qualifying score on the math portion of the ACT to maintain A+ eligibility. See your counselor for additional information.
3. Continue **scholarship search and applications!**Many deadlines are in the fall so pay attention to those dates. Local/popular scholarships will be placed in your student mailboxes located in the counselor office. Check it regularly.
4. **Applications to MU have a December 15 deadline if you are to be considered for automatic scholarships.**
5. Website for MACC scholarships: <https://www.macc.edu/financial-aid-types/scholarships>

**December**

1. You should try to **finish your ACT testing by the end of this month.**Mrs. Jones has practice ACT exams available in her office.
2. **Do not expect teachers/coaches/counselors, etc. to write letters of recommendation over winter break**. Some college applications/scholarships have January 1 deadlines; remember to get your recommendation letters early.
3. Continue scholarship search and applications. Check your student mailboxes before leaving over winter break.

**January/February**

1. Complete and submit your FAFSA if you have not already done so. This must be done online. You must register for a FSA ID prior to submitting your information.
2. If you need to, **Register for the February ACT.** If you are an A+ student who did not score at a proficient or advanced level on the EOC Algebra I exam, you will need a qualifying score on the math portion of the ACT to maintain A+ eligibility. See your counselor for additional information.

**March**

1. **Complete and submit your housing information.**
2. **Continue scholarship search and applications.**
3. Work on your resume and **begin a job hunt** if you need to work part or full time!

**April**

1. If you have been going through the college application process you will begin to receive admission decisions. **Compare financial aid awards; you can sometimes negotiate a better financial aid package.**
2. If you are ready, **make a decision and send in your deposit.**
3. **Decision Day-** This is a day for Madison C-3 to celebrate you and your post secondary course.
4. Prepare for **final exams; remember colleges will see your final transcript and GPA.**
5. **Academic Awards Banquet is April 23rd at 6pm.**

**May**

1. Find a summer job.
2. **Request final transcript** be sent to chosen college/program.
3. **Graduation is May 5th at 2pm.**

**Financial Aid**

The primary responsibility for paying for a student’s educational expenses belongs to the family. However, family finances alone should not determine the choice of a college. Your child should also examine their desire and ability to attend a specific college or other post-secondary program. If you prepare and follow the steps to applying for financial aid, a partnership of parents, the student, government and institutions can provide a viable financial aid package for most students.

**Important Facts About Financial Aid for College**

* There are funds available to help all students who demonstrate need. You do not need to be considered low income to qualify for financial aid for college.
* Schools with higher tuition costs are not necessarily more expensive. They sometimes provide the best financial aid.
* The expected family contribution remains the same regardless of the cost of the college. Because expenses at different colleges vary and the amount the family is expected to pay remains the same, you could be eligible for more aid at a higher cost college than at a lower cost college.
* Most financial aid is awarded on the basis of demonstrated need.
* **In order to receive financial aid you must ask for it! This means you must complete the FAFSA!**
* Colleges will differ in the amount of aid offered to you. You are not obligated to attend a college if the financial aid offered is not sufficient to meet your needs.

**Federal Financial Aid Programs**

There are several sources of financial aid for prospective college-bound students. One starting point is the link: [www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov). Here you will find descriptions of federal programs such as:

* Pell Grant
* Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grants (FSEOG)
* Federal Work Study
* Federal Perkins Loan
* Federal Stafford Loan
* Federal Plus

**Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)**

The FAFSA application is required for students to be considered for financial aid. You should complete the FAFSA even if you think you might not qualify because most colleges and universities will not award their own financial aid without a FAFSA report. The FAFSA form is free to complete and is used by most state agencies, colleges, and universities. The FAFSA form may be completed online at [www.fafsa.edu.gov](http://www.fafsa.edu.gov) starting in October of your senior year. It is in your best interest to apply as soon as possible.

**Financial Aid Websites**

* **The Financial Aide Information Page-** [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)
* **Missouri MO$T Program-**[www.missourimost.org](http://www.missourimost.org)
* **Missouri Department of Higher Ed-**[www.dhe.mo.gov](http://www.dhe.mo.gov)
* **US Department of Education-**[www.ed.gov](http://www.ed.gov)
* **Hope Scholarship & Lifetime Learning Tax Credits-**[www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/PPI/HOPE/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/offices/OPE/PPI/HOPE/index.html)
* **The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)-** You can apply online at <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>
* **Sallie Mae-** Information about loans and payment options: [www.salliemae.com](http://www.salliemae.com)
* **Nellie Mae-** Information about loans and payment options: [www.nelliemae.com](http://www.nelliemae.com)
* **How Stuff Works-** Interesting and comprehensive site with loads of details and helpful tools: <http://money.howstuffworks.com/college-financial-aid.htm>

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships can be found at the counseling website: <http://madisonc3counseling.weebly.com/>

Or you can access the website by going to [www.madison.k12.mo.us](http://www.madison.k12.mo.us) and clicking on the Counseling Website link under Schools.

Every senior will have a folder and a mailbox in the counseling office. Please check it regularly for new scholarship applications. Mrs. Jones will also send out messages through about new scholarships, deadlines, and due dates. Please keep a record of all dates for your own calendar so you do not miss an important deadline.

**Scholarship Search Sites**

* [**www.scholarships.com**](http://www.scholarships.com)
* [**www.fastweb.com**](http://www.fastweb.com)
* [**www.gocollege.com**](http://www.gocollege.com)
* [**www.OfftoCollege.com**](http://www.OfftoCollege.com)
* [**www.collegeanswer.com**](http://www.collegeanswer.com)
* [**www.embark.com**](http://www.embark.com)

**Scholarship Scams-** A Federal Trade Commission-run site. It is always good to check on what you learn about on the web: <https://www.consumer.ftc.gov/articles/0082-scholarship-and-financial-aid-scams>

**Scholarship Tips**

* Start EARLY!
* Contact schools you are interested in and ask for information about their scholarships
* Apply for local scholarships
* Pay attention to deadlines
* Follow the instructions of the scholarship precisely
* Make sure you complete ALL parts of the application and have all the required documentation included
* Give your references at least two weeks’ notice to write your letters of recommendation
* Ask someone to proofread your essays--- Mrs. Bennett is a great resource, but give her at least two weeks notice

**A+ Program**

If you are earning you’re A+ designation you must remember to arrange a meeting with Mrs. Jones in the Counseling Office to be sure you have met all program requirements prior to graduation. Eligibility status will be updated throughout the school year.

A+ Requirements:

* Enter into a written agreement with your high school prior to graduation.
* Attend an A+ designated high school for three consecutive years prior to graduation (*does not have to be the same school for three years*).
* Graduate with a GPA of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
* Maintain at least 95% attendance for the four year period.
* Perform at least 50 hours of unpaid tutoring or mentoring to other students in the district.
* Score Proficient or Advanced on the Algebra I End Of Course (EOC) Exam
  + OR achieve a qualifying score on the Math component of the ACT test and graduate with the required GPA or higher.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| ACT Math Score | GPA |
| 17+ | 2.5+ |
| 16 | 2.8+ |
| 15 | 3.0+ |

* Maintain a record of good citizenship and avoid unlawful use of drugs and/or alcohol.
* Register with the selective service, if required by law.
* Apply for non-payback scholarships by completing a FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid).

**ACT Test Schedule**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Test Date** | **Deadline** | **Late Deadline**  ACT Test fee is $46.00 per test.  ACT Test with writing is $62.50 per test.  If you have turned in the necessary paperwork and qualify for free/reduced lunches you may receive up to two **fee waivers** for the ACT Test.  Please see Mrs. Jones for more information **before you register**. |
| Sept 8, 2018 | Aug 3, 2018 | Aug 17, 2018 |
| Oct 27, 2018 | Sept 21, 2018 | Oct 5, 2018 |
| Dec 8, 2018 | Nov 2, 2018 | Nov 16, 2018 |
| Feb 9, 2019 | Jan 4, 2019 | Jan 18, 2019 |
| Apr 13, 2019 | Mar 8, 2019 | Mar 22, 2019 |
| June 8, 2019 | May 3, 2019 | May 17, 2019 |
| July 13, 2019 | June 14, 2019 | June 21, 2019 |

**NCAA Eligibility**

Visit <http://www.ncaa.org/student-athletes/future> to register for the NCAA clearinghouse. In addition, you can review the academic requirements to participate in college sports. There are several resources available to you at this website. See Mrs. Jones if you have additional questions.

**NAIA Eligibility**

Visit <http://www.playnaia.org/eligibility-center> to register for the NAIA clearinghouse. See Mrs. Jones if you have additional questions.

**College Visits**

Seniors are given excused absences for **two** college visits. Make arrangements for your college visits beforehand with the office and be sure to plan ahead and make up any class work you miss. If you need assistance setting up your college visit, please see Mrs. Jones. Most colleges and universities have online registration for college visits through their school website.

**College Application Resume Tips:**

* List everything in reverse chronological order within each category.
* Be sure to mention any unusual experiences that will impress admissions officers.
* Give a copy to each potential recommender. It’ll help them write their letter for you.
* Proofread, proofread, and proofread.

**College Application Essay Tips:**

1. There are few opportunities at this time to change the data in your college application.
   * Your grades are fixed and first semester senior year will not change that dramatically.
   * Your ACT scores will not rise or fall THAT dramatically, no matter how many times you take them.
   * Your teacher and college recommendations are out of your hands.
2. The single place where you still exercise some substantial control is your college application essay, and it represents an opportunity you should **not** take lightly.
3. Most private colleges and universities require at least one essay; some of the more competitive state universities- Michigan, Colorado, Texas, Washington- now requiring essays.
4. If a school indicates that an essay is optional, don’t consider it optional; write one.
5. Check each application for the topic/topics it specifies and the number of essays each requires.
6. Pay close attention to the topic; while many fall into a “personal experience” or “personal statement” response, others will ask you to address everything from “Why do you want to go to our school?” to “Do something creative with this 8 ½ x 11 inch space.”
7. Write several drafts; the key to a successful application essay is- as with all sound writing- **revision;** write an engaging story about yourself, keep the focus narrow, and above all, understand that the readers want to learn something about you from the essay, something that is helpful in understanding **who you are today.**
8. Try to keep the essay to one page; readers rarely turn to a second page. If you must use a second page, make sure the break is in the MIDDLE of a very interesting sentence in your narrative.
9. Have competent readers review the essay so that it “sounds like you.” Choose your readers wisely.
10. When you hand it to a reader, especially a teacher or another adult, make sure you indicate
    * The topic
    * The college or university to which it will be sent
11. Some schools are requiring that, in addition to a personal narrative, you submit a piece of graded analytical writing. Consider a paper you wrote junior year, but do not submit something as long as a research paper.

**College Application Checklist**

**\_\_ Make a list of 3-6 college or universities which you are interested in.**

**\_\_ Check your grades/courses/test scores to see if they meet the admission requirements of**

**your selected schools. (Most of this information is available in INow through your parent portal)**

**\_\_ Check your A+ status.**

**\_\_ Turn in your signed transcript request form.**

**\_\_ Register to take the ACT if necessary. You can register online at** [**http://www.act.org/**](http://www.act.org/)

**\_\_ Visit the college or university website to review online applications, scholarships, and**

**financial aid information. Most applications will be completed online.**

**\_\_ Develop a resume organizing your high school activities, honors, community service, etc.**

**\_\_ Start completing your applications. (Keep a copy of your applications and essays)**

**\_\_ Ask for letters of recommendations. (Give your references at least 2 weeks notice. DO**

**NOT wait until the last minute!) Keep copies of your letters for future use.**

**\_\_ Fill out a transcript request form and return it to the Principal’s office.**

**\_\_ Complete the FAFSA.**

**\_\_ Complete scholarships throughout the school year.**

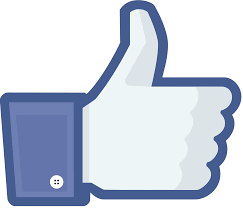
**\_\_ Use your college visits to gather information to help you choose your school.**

**\_\_ Inform Mrs. Jones of any college acceptances and/or scholarships earned.**

**\_\_ Choose your school by comparing all aspects of the campus environment, programs, cost,**

**financial aid packages, etc.**

**Clean up your** social media**. Selective schools and scholarship programs check your cyber footprint, so get those unflattering photos and posts off the web!**



**Post-Secondary Planning Websites**

COLLEGE INFORMATION

* **The College Board-** <http://www.collegeboard.com>
* **The National Association of College Admission Counselors (NACAC)-** A good resource to an array of links: <http://www.nacacnet.org/memberportal/>
* **ACT-** Includes test registration and test-prep information: <http://www.act.org>
* **Peterson’s-** Links to the companies many resources: <http://www.petersons.com>
* **US News and World Report-**Be wary of the rankings, but there is much to learn at this site. The “school comparison” feature is great: [www.usnews.com/sections/rankings](http://www.usnews.com/sections/rankings)
* **Colleges That Change Lives-** Site based on best-selling, highly regarded college advisor, Loren Pope. Insights about some wonderful and sometimes overlooks places: <http://www.ctclonline.com>
* **College View-** A good source for information on all colleges: <http://www.collegeview.com>
* **College Quest-** College search: [www.collegequest.com](http://www.collegequest.com)
* **College Newspapers-** A great way to find out what’s really going on at a campus: [www.studyworld.com/college\_newspapers\_online.htm](http://www.studyworld.com/college_newspapers_online.htm)
* **CollegeNet-** An all-purpose site with a host of useful links and programs: <http://www.students.gov/STUGOVWebApp/index.jsp>
* **Princeton Review-** Test prep, college search and other college-related info: <http://princetonreview.com>
* **Mapping Your Future-** General info site with a variety of information including a sign-up for monthly e-mail reminders and a newsletter: <http://www.mappingyourfuture.org>

APPLICATION SERVICES

* **The Common Application-** 200+ schools accept it and you should use it. <http://www.commonapp.org>
* **Historically Black Colleges Common Application-** Find applications for 29 different institutions: <http://www.eduinconline.com>

**SPECIAL INTEREST**

* **The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)-** [www.ncaa.org](http://www.ncaa.org)
* **The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA)-** [**http://www.naia.org**](http://www.naia.org)
* **Historically Black Colleges-** [**http://www.blackhighereducation.com**](http://www.blackhighereducation.com)
* **Jesuit Colleges-** [**http://www.ajcunet.edu**](http://www.ajcunet.edu)
* **Macleans-** For those looking into Canadian schools, this is an invaluable resource: [www.macleans.ca/universities](http://www.macleans.ca/universities)
* **American Indian College Fund-** [**www.collegefund.org**](http://www.collegefund.org)
* **Learning Disabilities Association-** [**www.ldanatl.org**](http://www.ldanatl.org)
* **Students with Learning Disabilities-** [**www.ncld.org**](http://www.ncld.org)
* **Children and Adults with ADD-** [**http://www.chadd.org**](http://www.chadd.org)
* **American Association of University Women-** [**www.aauw.org**](http://www.aauw.org)

**CAREER INFORMATION**

* **ASVAB Career Exploration Program-** Developed by the Department of Defense; free, comprehensive career site: <http://www.asvabprogram.com>
* **US Department of Labor-** Everything career planning in the Occupational Outlook Handbook: <http://www.bls.gov/k12/index.htm>
* **Department of Commerce-** Site with government jobs and other info: <http://www.fedworld.gov>
* **College job planning-** [www.monster.com](http://www.monster.com)
* **Military Career Guide Online-** [www.militarycareers.com](http://www.militarycareers.com)

**MISCELLANEOUS**

* **Campus Online Tours-** <http://www.ecampustours.com/careerexploration/defaoult.htm>
* **Greek Life-** Site dedicated to fraternity and sororities: <http://greekpages.com>
* **Test Prep Resources-** [www.testprep.com](http://www.testprep.com)