



Senior Year Checklist – College Preparation

Use this checklist to make sure you are doing everything necessary to apply to college and make the most of your senior year.

Fall

- Review your schedule and requirements** – Make sure that you are meeting all high school graduation requirements, taking the right classes to apply to college, and completing your high school’s “Senior Project”, “High School and Beyond”, or “Culmination Project” requirements. Continue to challenge yourself and take academic courses and get all the extra help you need to succeed.
- Finalize your college list** – Make your final list of colleges to which you will apply. You need to apply to at least three colleges – a safety, a solid, and a reach school. This will make sure that you have options. Most students apply to between five and ten schools. Make sure that you are only applying to schools you want to attend.
- Update your calendar** – Make sure you are organized and have all of your important dates in one location. Having an overarching calendar will keep you organized and on track. Put all of your application deadlines, financial aid deadlines, scholarship deadlines, and other important dates on your calendar and check it regularly.
- Standardized Tests** - Sign up to take the SAT or the ACT + Writing at least once in early fall. You need to send your scores directly from the testing agency to the colleges to which you are applying. Talk with your high school counselor if you need a fee waiver. SAT – www.collegeboard.com ACT – www.act.org. Consider if you need to take the SAT Subject Tests – www.sat.collegeboard.com.
- College fairs** – Attend the National College Fair in Seattle in November. Visit www.nacacnet.org to learn more about the details. You can learn about hundreds of colleges in one place. Your school might also have a college fair or visits already scheduled. Talk with your counselor if you need to learn more about your college choices or where to apply.
- Applications** – Collect all the necessary application materials from each of your potential colleges. Contact the admissions office if you have any questions about requirements or the specifics of an application.
- Early Action/Early Decision** – Determine if any of your top choices has options for Early Action or Early Decision. Early Action is where you simply hear your decision from a college earlier and Early Decision is a binding contract that if you are accepted you must attend that college. Contact each of your potential colleges to learn more.
- Apply** – Complete your personal statements/writing sections and submit all of your college applications well before their deadlines. Make sure that you submit all the pieces of your application (ex: transcripts, letters of recommendation, personal statements, high school profile, letter from counselor, etc.).
- Follow up** – After you submit your application, contact each college to make sure that you have submitted everything and that your application will be reviewed.

Winter

- ❑ **PIN** – Create a Personal Identification Number (*PIN*) for the FAFSA (*Free Application For Federal Student Aid*) for you and one parent or guardian – www.pin.ed.gov. This allows you to log on and submit your FAFSA.
- ❑ **FAFSA** – Submit the FAFSA (*Free Application For Federal Student Aid*) by the end of January – www.fafsa.ed.gov. You can start filling it out January 1st of your senior year. The FAFSA is available to submit for US citizens or permanent residents.
- ❑ **Scholarships** – Continue to apply for scholarships. Visit www.thewashboard.org, www.fastweb.com, and www.finaid.org. These sites will connect you with scholarships and help you pay for college along with the FAFSA.
- ❑ **CSS Profile** – Submit the College Board CSS (*College Board Scholarship Service*) if required by your potential colleges – www.collegeboard.com/css/.
- ❑ **Register for AP/IB Tests** – If you are prepared to take any of the Advanced Placement (*AP*) tests or International Baccalaureate (*IB*) tests make sure to register for the tests. AP tests are scheduled for early May.
- ❑ **High School Scholarship Application** – Your high school may have a separate scholarship application form which you can submit to be considered for local scholarships. Check with your counselor to see what you may have to submit and when it is due.
- ❑ **Submit all college applications** – Continue to submit all of your college applications by their specific deadlines.

Spring

- ❑ **Decide where you will go** – By May 1st make the decision with your family and counselors about which college you will attend. Make sure you have all forms submitted (financial aid, enrollment verification, health forms, etc.) by May 1st.
- ❑ **College Housing** – Colleges may require you to submit additional information, forms, and/or a financial deposit to secure on campus housing. Check with your college to see what steps you must take to have on campus housing. You may or may not be required to live on campus, so check with your college about all the details and review the materials that have been sent to you.
- ❑ **Continue with scholarships** – Continue to search for and apply to scholarships. Remember to look for local, regional, and national scholarships. You may need to update your online profiles to receive new scholarship matches.