

SENIOR COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST



General Stuff

- Review your class schedule and transcript with your counselor to ensure you meet all college preparatory requirements.
- Attend college fairs in your area.
- Visit college campuses. Attend events at the colleges you are interested in.
- Explore careers and job opportunities in those careers. Talk to your parents and your friends' parents about what they do.
- Make sure your high school counselor knows what you're looking for in a college so he/she can help you choose the best one for you.

Early Fall

- Gather applications to the schools you are considering (note deadlines for admission, scholarships, housing, etc.).
- Begin the college application process in September.
- Line up people to write letters of recommendation
- Take the ACT/SAT in September/October (repeat as necessary or desired).

Mid-Fall

- Talk to your high school counselor about local scholarships and get the applications.
- Keep checking back periodically throughout the year for information on the latest scholarships.
- Apply for admission – meet deadlines.
- Call to verify that the college or university received your materials.
- Apply for scholarships before Christmas break if application deadline isn't earlier. (verify the arrival of your application, transcripts, etc.).

Winter

- Attend a financial aid workshop with your parents.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at www.fafsa.ed.gov beginning January 1.

Spring

- Take AP Tests (if applicable)
- Go back for a second or third visit to campuses you really like.
- It's time to make a decision!
- Write the college you have chosen to tell them you will attend. Notify other colleges that have accepted you to tell them your decision so they can offer admission to another student.
- May 1 is National Decision Day. This is your deadline to commit to your school.

As Soon as You Choose a School

- Apply for housing
- Get familiar with your college and what you will need when you get there.

Learn about:

- Housing options (on-campus, off-campus, Greek, etc.)
- Course selection/scheduling
- Faculty/Programs in your major
- Do you need a car?
- Where will you park?
- Do you need a bike?
- Should you have your own computer? Desktop or laptop?

Summer before college

- See an academic advisor at the university or college you will attend, then register early.
- Attend a summer orientation program. Also be sure to enroll in a freshman orientation class, even if it isn't required.
- Make a list of what you will need to take to college (coordinate with your roommate so you won't have two of everything). Carpet? Refrigerator? Microwave? Stereo? Computer? Etc.
- Work with your parents on a financial plan or budget. Where will your money come from? Who pays for what? How/When to ask for more?