

SENIOR YEAR COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST



General Info

- Review your class schedule 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
- Complete academic resume
- 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 no later than December.
- Call to verify that the college or university received your materials.
- Apply for scholarships before deadlines and verify arrival of applications.

Spring

- Attend a financial aid workshop with your parents.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student AID (FAFSA) www.fafsa.ed.gov.
- Apply for financial aid (as soon after Jan. 1 as possible)
- 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!
- If you are declining an offer of acceptance, write to tell colleges your decision so they can offer admission to another student.

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, and 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?