

College Checklist for Seniors

Summer before Senior Year

- _____ Visit as many colleges as possible. If available, have interviews, take a tour, schedule to meet with a coach, attend information sessions, and *ask questions*.
- _____ Continue to collect and study college/university literature. Be sure that you are on the mailing list at all of the colleges that interest you.
- _____ Start to seriously evaluate the places on your list as you visit and, if necessary, revise the list. Don't feel the need to have a "favorite" or "first choice," but do note trends or characteristics shared by the schools you like.
- _____ Start to think about and gather any supplementary or supporting materials that you would like to send to colleges (creative writing samples, an art portfolio, etc.).
- _____ Start thinking about (perhaps even begin writing) the personal essays that you will be sending to colleges.
- _____ Complete your Activities Resume which you will include with each of your applications. Encourage your parents to complete the Parent Questionnaire for Recommendations.

Academics

- _____ Take the most challenging courses that are appropriate for you.
- _____ Keep up your grades. Grades and courses continue to count throughout the senior year. Enjoy your final year in high school, but don't catch senioritis!
- _____ Meet individually with the Guidance Counselor to review your graduation plan, transcript, discuss further possible testing, and your college lists.
- _____ Continue and expand leadership roles in co-curricular activities. Continue community service and turn in your service forms to Guidance Counselor.

Testing

- _____ Register for the October SAT and/or SAT Subject Tests , or September ACT if you still need to raise your score.
- _____ Take AP exams, if appropriate. Request that your scores be sent to the college you will attend.

Choosing a College

- _____ Parents and students attend the *College Information Night for Seniors*.
- _____ Attend college representative meetings throughout the fall. Take advantage of the opportunity to meet the admission counselors who may read your application.
- _____ Attend local college fairs to get more information about the colleges on your list. Visit NACAC's National College Fairs webpage www.nacacnet.org to check out the schedule for the National College Fairs and the Performing and Visual Arts College Fairs.
- _____ Get organized! Check on application and financial aid deadlines for the schools to which you plan to apply. November 1-15 are the common deadline(s) used by colleges for Early Decision and Early Action deadlines. Keep copies of all correspondence, application and financial aid forms from colleges where you apply.
- _____ If recommendations are required, ask the appropriate people to write on your behalf. At least three weeks before the due date, ask your counselor, teachers, employers, or coaches to write letters of recommendation. Provide recommendation form, a copy of your resume, any special instructions and a stamped, addressed business envelope to the people writing your recommendation. Write thank-you notes to those who write recommendations and keep them informed of your decisions.
- _____ Have test scores sent to colleges – you must contact the College Board (www.collegeboard.com) or the ACT (www.act.org) to have your scores sent.
- _____ Monitor your applications to be sure that all materials are sent and received on time and that they are complete.
- _____ Review your college acceptances and financial aid awards. If you are positive that you will not enroll at one or more of the colleges that accepted you, notify those colleges that you have selected another college.
- _____ May 1 – deadline to decide which college you will attend and mail the deposit and enrollment card (ONE COLLEGE ONLY!).

Financial Aid

- _____ Sign up for free scholarship information at www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com.
- _____ ASAP after January 1 – complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if you plan to use financial aid. Check with your colleges to make sure they do not require any other financial aid forms.
- _____ Investigate scholarship opportunities from federal and private sources and from the schools on your college list.