



## Senior Checklist in Approximate Order

### Fall or Before

- Continue college discussion(s) with your parent(s).
- Do you have a file bin organized with folders for each?
- Have a final list of colleges where you will apply. 6 – 9 of them is plenty.
- Review your college plans with your counselor. Solidify your relationship.
- Will you take the SAT or ACT again? If so, register – watch deadlines.
- Be sure you have all your applications downloaded and essays in progress.
- Ask for your letters of recommendation and send thank-you's a bit later.
- Can you obtain any private interviews at your target colleges?
- Calendar deadlines for applications and financial aid. What forms are required when?
- Will you consider early decision or early action?
- File all applications and keep copies of each and certificates of mailing as needed.
- Be sure all transcripts, test scores and required forms are proofed and sent.
- Obtain your FAFSA ID at <https://fsaid.ed.gov/>.
- File the FAFSA in October or January (the dates are changing)

### Winter

- Have you filed your FAFSA?
- Do any colleges require a mid-year report? (first semester senior grades)
- Keep up your grades. No Senioritis.

### Spring

- As you obtain acceptances, watch for financial aid letters and housing information.
- Register and take any AP tests needed.
- Carefully analyze financial aid offers. Compare and even consider appealing.
- Notify all colleges of your decision and accept one by May 1. Send applicable deposit.

### Summer

- Fill out and send housing forms, roommate info and any other required paperwork.
- Study hard for senior finals. This is not a time to slip.
- Send final thank you's and notify anyone who helped you of your decision.
- Register for and attend any orientation programs at your college.
- Think about what you'll need at college: computer, phone, bike, etc.
- Consider a summer job to give you some college dollars.
- Relax and enjoy your summer. Congrats on a job well done!



SENIOR CALENDAR

<p><b>SEPTEMBER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Get a file "bin" and set up a file for each target school.</li> <li>- Attend all high school college-related meetings.</li> <li>- Meet with counselor and ask questions.</li> <li>- Identify all the application deadlines for your schools and fill out checklist.</li> <li>- Get your school's CEEB code and have it handy along with your SS#.</li> <li>- Finalize your resume.</li> <li>- Prep for final SAT/ACT testing and register.</li> <li>- Ask teachers for letters of recommendation if your colleges want them.</li> <li>- Request interviews at privates whenever they are available.</li> <li>- Get a good senior picture, formal or informal.</li> <li>- Print practice apps for all your schools even if you will be doing them on-line.</li> <li>-Review your Handbook carefully.</li> </ul>	<p><b>OCTOBER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obtain FAFSA forms - you can file in October using last year's tax return;</li> <li>- Take SAT/ACT as needed (register for Nov/Dec).</li> <li>- Work on applications.</li> <li>- See if college applications are on the internet yet <i>(be sure they are for the right admission term)</i> If so, download &amp; print them for practice and/or get the essays.</li> <li>- Think about essay topics. Brainstorm.</li> <li>- Keep grades up – senior grades count!</li> <li>- Are you taking the SAT again?</li> <li>- Did you obtain all letters of recommendation needed?</li> <li>- Decide about applying early decision – you can only do one!</li> <li>- If you're an athlete, talk to coach(es).</li> <li>- Polish your resume for the last time!</li> <li>-Are any of your target schools visiting your high school?</li> </ul>	<p><b>NOVEMBER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Attend any workshops/ meetings offered by your high school.</li> <li>-think about financial aid needs.</li> <li>- Work on essays and applications. <i>(many early applications are due in November!)</i></li> <li>- Watch deadlines!</li> <li>- Don't procrastinate with your apps! The earlier the better.</li> <li>- Want to take the SAT one more time?</li> <li>- Have your high school send transcripts to colleges that want them.</li> <li>- Send thank you notes to anyone who helped you (letters of recommendation etc).</li> <li>- Be sure your SAT/ACT scores have been sent to all your colleges after your last test. Send AP scores as well if they are strong.</li> </ul>	<p><b>DECEMBER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- This is likely your last chance at the standardized tests – use it if you need it.</li> <li>- Study Hard! You can't afford to let your grades slip. <i>(first semester grades may be used in decisions)</i></li> <li>- Be sure to report your test scores to all your colleges.</li> <li>- Use the internet to research scholarships.</li> <li>- Finish any remaining applications! Proof them over and over.</li> <li>- Have others read your essays to be sure they are captivating and demonstrate something unique about you.</li> <li>- Send your final resume, picture and cover letter to your private schools.</li> <li>- Think about financial aid needs and familiarize yourself with the forms.</li> <li>- Keep copies of everything you send.</li> <li>- If accepted Early Decision, inform other schools.</li> </ul>	<p><b>JANUARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The last of the applications should be due this month for Fall admission.</li> <li>- Are your test scores sent?</li> <li>- Transcripts sent as required?</li> <li>- Letters of recommendation in?</li> <li>- Be sure your FAFSA is filed;</li> <li>- Consider using CSS/PROFILE for aid if your college(s) take it. (College Board website)</li> <li>- You may need a GPA verification form for some state grants. (research this).</li> <li>- Attend financial aid workshops at your school or elsewhere.</li> <li>- Research private scholarships via internet.</li> </ul>
<p><b>FEBRUARY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Finish financial aid forms. Timing matters! Being late can literally cost you.</li> <li>- Tell your parents you will need their 1040 tax information <i>(as current as possible, last years at least)</i></li> <li>- You can estimate the financial aid you will receive.</li> <li>- Have school send updated transcripts or midyear reports if needed.</li> <li>- Pay attention to correspondence from colleges.</li> <li>- Keep your grades up! Offers can be rescinded!</li> </ul>	<p><b>MARCH</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-FAFSA form due <i>(Review the SAR you will receive to be sure it is using the right data)</i></li> <li>- Register for AP tests.</li> <li>- Wait for acceptance letters! <i>( Pay attention to housing forms in acceptance letters. There may be deadlines and preference options)</i></li> <li>- Consider appealing a rejection. <i>(if it was your first choice and you have some reason for them to reconsider you)</i></li> <li>- Notify your counselor when you receive college decisions and write waitlist letters if appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p><b>APRIL</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Congrats on all your acceptances! You must generally select a school by May 1.</li> <li>- Final campus visits if needed to help make your decision.</li> <li>- Talk to people who can help you decide: alumni, older friends who are there, parents, and your counselor.</li> <li>- Prepare for AP tests and finals.</li> <li>- Review and discuss financial aid offers as part of your decision making process. These can be appealed also.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MAY</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Most of your schools must be notified by May 1 with an SIR form.</li> <li>- Plan summer employment.</li> <li>- Pay attention to housing and meal plan information contained in your acceptance letter(s).</li> <li>- Inform the schools you will NOT be attending as well.</li> <li>- If needed, research loans (PLUS, Stafford etc) to make up for any financial gap after aid results are known.</li> <li>- Study for finals and APs! (use prep books?)</li> </ul>	<p><b>JUNE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Order final transcript and anything else to be sent to your college.</li> <li>- Consider computer needs for next Fall <i>(notebooks, wireless connections, etc)</i></li> <li>- Attend all orientations at your college.</li> <li>- Do some extra research on your college to think about what activities you will pursue.</li> <li>- Respond to any financial aid offers you received.</li> <li>- Keep READING!</li> <li>- Have a great summer and look forward to the amazing adventure that awaits you!</li> </ul>