

Senior Year Checklist

August/September

- Be sure that you continue a schedule with courses of rigor and do not become overcommitted (i.e., too many clubs, sports, jobs, etc.).
- Continue researching your Top 10 colleges with the purpose of narrowing down to a Top 3–5.
- Visit colleges of interest and attend college fairs.
- Determine if you are applying for an “impacted major,” which may require higher admission standards.
- Fill out college applications early! Some colleges need applications in by October 1st for certain housing and scholarship options.
- Narrow your list of potential colleges to 1–2 “stretch schools” where you might be on the lower GPA and SAT®/ACT® score average, 1–2 “strong match schools” where you meet the schools’ average GPA and SAT/ACT average, and 1 “fallback school” that you are certain you will get into.
- Examine college applications and record application deadlines in your agenda/planner.
- Determine application options (early decision, early action, or regular decision).
- Update résumé.
- Ask for an unofficial transcript.
- Compute final GPA to be submitted on applications.
- Ask select teachers/counselors/others to write letters of recommendation.
- Keep your grades up and stay in challenging courses! 75% of revoked acceptances are because seniors do poorly in classes or take too light of a load!

October

- Revise college essays for submission.
- Request fee waivers from your counselor (if applicable).
- Submit public college applications online.
- Submit applications if applying “early decision.”
- Be sure you include courses you’ve taken at a community college on your applications.
- Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 1 scholarship for the month of October.
- Study for the final SAT/ACT test.

November/December

- Submit applications for private colleges/universities.
- Research financial aid requirements and deadlines.
- Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 3 scholarships in November and December.
- Keep those grades up! Reach out for help if you feel like you are falling behind.

January

- Apply for your FAFSA pin.
- Complete the FAFSA application and worksheet.
- Make sure all test scores (SAT, ACT, AP®) have been submitted to colleges/universities where you have applied.
- Submit your FAFSA as close to January 1st as possible.
- Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for the month of January.
- Be sure to contact colleges early if there were unexpected changes to your class schedule.

February/March

- Enroll and take English and Math Placement Tests for colleges. (Tests are generally given Feb. through May.)
- Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 3 scholarships for February and March.
- Research dorm applications and deadlines.

- At the end of March, follow up with colleges that you haven't heard from to be sure they have everything they need (transcript, SAT/ACT scores, essays, fee waiver, etc.).

April

- Study for upcoming AP exams.
- Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for April. (Look into scholarships at the college/university that you plan to attend.)
- Be sure to submit your housing application to the school that you plan to attend.
- Research the placement tests that you will need to take (and pass) at the college that you plan to attend.
- Were you denied admission? Don't give up, contact the admissions office, and ask if there is an appeal process.
- Don't slack! Finish strong. A drop in grades is the number one reason that colleges revoke admissions (over 50%).

May/Early June

- Take AP exams. Be sure test scores are sent to the appropriate colleges.
- Look into taking college courses at a local community college (especially courses that cover any remediation or first-year classes, if you haven't passed).
- Be sure you send official transcripts from courses taken at the community college to the college you will attend.
- Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for May. (Look into scholarships at the college/university that you plan to attend.)
- Complete AVID Senior Data.
- Sign up to be an AVID tutor next year.
- See your physician to get a meningitis shot, as you will need this to attend college.
- Write thank-you notes to teachers and your counselor for helping you through the process.
- Take a day to celebrate the fact that you graduated and are one step closer to your dreams of college.

Early Summer

- Make a decision about which college you will attend and notify the college that you will attend.
- Notify schools that you are not attending.
- Send deposits for housing (if you haven't already).
- Sign up for orientation.
- Enroll in classes (refer back to 14.12 The 4-Year College Plan).
- Be sure you have completed and passed placement tests for English and math.
- Send official score reports to college from ACT/SAT.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Talk to counselor about sending final transcript to college.
- Contact your roommate:
 - Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
- Contact financial aid office at the college that you plan to attend to be sure they have everything they need:
 - Phone Number: _____
- Sign up for work study (contact career services at the campus):
 - Phone Number: _____ Website: _____
- Search campus job opportunities.
- Accept financial aid and determine if you need to accept student loans (tuition, housing, books).
- Examine your chosen school using Websites for the AVID Elective Teacher and Student Worksheet (*Preparing for College*, pp. 285–288).
- FIND OUT HOW TO LOG IN TO CAMPUS WEBSITE AND YOUR STUDENT EMAIL. A lot of important emails may come to the new college email, and you will miss it if you aren't checking.

Late Summer

- Check out campus organization, clubs, etc.
- Be sure that AP scores are sent to college and adjust first semester schedule accordingly.
- Attend orientation:
 - Date: _____ Location: _____
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Set up appointment with academic advisor.
- Get student ID card.
- BE SURE YOU SIGN INTO YOUR COLLEGE EMAIL ACCOUNT!
- Pack. (Coordinate larger items with roommate.)
- Obtain parking permits.
- Determine if professors have posted syllabi and look into purchasing books.

Early First Semester (Freshman Year of College)

- Check out tutoring opportunities.
- Study, study, study. (Remember that studying in college is not just doing homework; it is reading the book and reviewing your notes every day.)
- Visit the Financial Aid Office and find out about scholarship opportunities.
- Look into extracurricular activities.
- Go to the Tutoring Center on campus and find out about resources.
- Introduce yourself to your professor.
- Follow Study Group Plan.
- Calendar dates of homework and tests.
- Critically read the syllabi to examine grading expectations and midterm/final projects or tests.
- Attend at least one set of professor office hours during the first two weeks.
- Talk with other students from your classes and share contact info (for study groups, missed classes).
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Set up a study group with students from your class (friends from dorm).
- Check grades.
- Set up regular study hours (5.3.2b).
- Reserve study group locations.

Late First Semester (Freshman Year of College)

- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Prepare to re-apply for financial aid in January. (This is a yearly process!)
- If attending a community college: Check if the classes that you are taking will transfer to your destination four-year college in your intended major (not the community college that you are attending). Talk with an admissions counselor at the destination school to determine a transfer timeline.