

High School Checklist



Ninth Grade

- ☐ Think about college/ plans after graduation
- ☐ Research academic areas of interest and career options
- ☐ Take challenging courses in core academic subjects
- ☐ Talk to guidance counselor about four-year plan outlining academic path including AP courses you're interested in taking)
- ☐ Get involved with school and community activities (extracurriculars and volunteer work)
- ☐ Talk about finances and affording college with family

Tenth Grade

- ☐ Think about taking practice SATs/ACTs (PSAT/NMSQT) - decide which test best suit and demonstrate your skills
- ☐ Research majors that match your interests
- ☐ Attend college fairs and financial aid information sessions
- ☐ Continue taking classes which follow the academic plan you set up with your counselor last year
- ☐ Keep up with extracurriculars and volunteer work
- ☐ Begin researching colleges that match your interests (academic, personal, and extracurricular)

Junior Year - Fall

- ☐ Take PSAT (to qualify for national merit scholarship programs)
- ☐ Attend SAT/ACT test prep sessions
- ☐ Visit college campuses
- ☐ Run for leadership positions in extracurricular activities
- ☐ Research admission requirements for schools of interest to you - talk with your counselor about creating a sample of colleges to look into / apply to

Junior Year - Spring

- ☐ Register for SAT/ACT
- ☐ Research ways to pay for college (FAFSA, loans, scholarships, grants) - talk to family about expected contributions from your behalf and theirs towards financing your education
- ☐ Research college application materials and deadlines
- ☐ Solidify college list with help from guidance counselor

Senior Year - Fall

- ☐ Submit FAFSA and financial aid applications
- ☐ Register and take SATs/ACTs (check which tests colleges prefer/require and submit scores by deadlines)
- ☐ Apply to colleges (determine if you're eligible for college application fee waivers with help from your guidance counselor and admissions directors at the colleges you intend to apply to)
- ☐ Ask counselors, teachers, and family to submit required documents to colleges (transcripts, letters of recommendation, fee waivers)
- ☐ Complete scholarship applications

Senior Year - Spring

- ☐ Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll
- ☐ Review college acceptances and compare financial aid offers
- ☐ Upon deciding which school you'd like you attend, notify your school of your commitment and submit required financial deposit.
- ☐ Accept scholarship and grant awards
- ☐ Consider options surrounding student loans