

Senior Year -- College Planning Checklist

Fall

- Make a list of all the things you need to do and the deadlines you need to meet during your senior year of high school. You'll be taking entrance exams, completing applications, paying fees, and much more.
- Review your coursework with your guidance counselor to be sure that you've taken (or are scheduled to take) all the courses you'll need for admission to your preferred colleges.
- Register for SAT or ACT if you would like to retake tests. If you are applying to schools that require subject area test scores, make sure you have completed those tests too!
- Continue to pursue extracurricular activities.
- Complete college forms and essays (as required) and submit them by the required deadlines. Many colleges now offer an online admission option; check college Websites for information.
- Be sure to keep copies of everything you send, so you can refer to or resend them later if you have to.
- If you've changed your list of schools you're applying to since you took the ACT® or SAT®, arrange to have your test scores forwarded to the colleges you're applying to.
- Visit the colleges you're most interested in attending. There's no substitute for actual experience. Try to connect with a current student so you can see what classes and dorm life are really like.
- December 1st** you can file for Bright Futures by going to [Student Florida Financial Aid Application](#). All Florida Aid applicants must all file a FAFSA [Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#).

Winter

- File your Free Application for [Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) as soon as possible after January 1. You can complete it online at <https://fafsa.ed.gov/> or fill out a printed form and mail it. You'll need information from your parents' tax return to complete the application, so ask them to file early.
- After your application has been reviewed, you'll be able to view your Student Aid Report (SAR) online. This will include your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is a number used to calculate how much you'll be expected to pay for college, as well as the amount of federal student aid you may be eligible for.
- Ask your high school to send your transcripts to the colleges you're applying to by putting in a transcript request form and paying \$1.00 per transcript.
- Boys who are 18 years or older must be registered for Selective Service to receive student financial aid.
- Continue to search for scholarships and complete scholarship applications.

Spring

- Watch your mailbox or email because many colleges announce acceptance decisions between February and April. If you can, make one last visit to each of the schools you're accepted to. Once you make your decision, be sure to return your acceptance letter by the deadline (usually the beginning of May).
- Student financial aid letters usually arrive by the beginning of May. Compare financial aid packages. If you need additional funding, it's not too late to apply for a student loan.
- Submit your tuition deposit to the college you've chosen. Be sure to get it on time (typically early in May). A late payment could jeopardize your admission.
- Request your final transcripts from the school guidance office. If you are NCAA Eligible, make sure you also request your final transcript be sent to the NCAA, as well as your college.

Summer

- Follow the college's financial aid instructions closely.
- Get a job to earn extra money for the school year.
- Open a bank account you can access at college – a checking account with a debit card is recommended, and possibly a savings account.