



Senior year checklist

Fall

College planning

- ☐ Attend college information nights in your community (<https://www.collegenights.org>)
- ☐ Check college websites for applications, deadlines, financial aid and housing information
- ☐ Ask your counselor to evaluate your transcript for high school graduation and college eligibility
- ☐ Register to take or retake college entrance exams
 - ☐ Several colleges are test optional—check www.fairtest.org/university/optional for the most comprehensive list
 - ☐ SAT (www.collegeboard.org)
 - ☐ ACT, with essay option ACT (www.act.org)
- ☐ Keep your test scores, resume and transcript organized to help in completing college applications
- ☐ Ask teachers and counselors for any required or optional letters of recommendation
- ☐ Finalize portfolios, audition materials or writing samples if required as part of the application
- ☐ Get feedback from a college advisor, teacher or parent/guardian and complete revisions of all applications and essays

Financial aid

- ☐ Review the financial aid application process and timeline required by the colleges on your list
- ☐ Register for an FSA ID, which serves as your FAFSA e-signature; student's parents/guardians must also register for an FSA ID (<https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/sign-in/landing>)
- ☐ File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which opens on October 1 (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/afsa>)
 - ☐ Information from the 2020 tax year will be used for the entering class of 2022 as they apply for financial aid for the 2022-2023 academic year
- ☐ Attend financial aid workshops in your community for help completing the FAFSA
- ☐ Be aware that private colleges may require additional financial information from the CSS Profile (<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/>)
- ☐ Check your state financial aid websites for more information about in-state financial aid opportunities for undocumented, DREAMer and DACA students (<https://www.ecmc.org/students/resource-guides.html>)
- ☐ Search and apply for scholarships (www.fastweb.com, <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>)
- ☐ Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) once FAFSA has been processed and make any needed corrections

Winter

College application follow-up

- ☐ Check your email frequently for additional information colleges might request within their timeline
- ☐ Send your mid-year transcript to colleges that request them
- ☐ Continue scholarship searches over winter break and continue to submit applications

Spring

Academics

- ☐ Keep up your grades—college admissions are conditional and can be rescinded if you do not continue academic excellence
- ☐ Check with the colleges where you have applied before considering dropping a senior year class; colleges expect you to complete all of the high school courses you listed as "in progress" on your admissions application
- ☐ Take your Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) exams

Best college and financial fit

- ☐ Check your email or college admissions portal for admission decision notification
- ☐ Visit campuses that most interest you during admitted-student's day or before
- ☐ Carefully review your financial aid offer for each campus where you have received admissions and compare each offer; ask a college advisor for help in clarifying your financial aid offers
- ☐ Finalize your financial aid; accept your financial aid offer or work with the college's financial aid office to adjust it
- ☐ Discuss your options with your parents/guardians (refer to worksheet on page 5)
- ☐ Call financial aid offices to answer questions or update them on any changes to your family's financial situation
- ☐ If you'll be attending a four-year college, notify and place a deposit at the college of your choice by National College Decision Day (May 1)

College admissions follow-up

- ☐ Sign into your college portal and review your task list and deadlines
- ☐ Check your email for correspondence and deadline reminders
- ☐ Request your final transcript be sent to your college choice **from your high school registrar before the deadline**
- ☐ Request AP and IB scores be submitted to your college choice