

Senior College Application Checklist

Want to know if you're on track in the college application process? This checklist shows you what you should be doing, and when. Never rule out applying to a college because you think it's too expensive. There are scholarships and financial aid packages available at almost all four-year colleges. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens October 1st.

CHECKLIST

- Pick four colleges to explore:
 1. **Safety**- a college you're confident you can get into.
 2. **Good fits** - Two colleges you have a pretty good chance of getting into.
 3. **Reach** - a college that you have a chance of getting into, but it's a stretch.
- Visit as many of your potential schools as you can (in person or virtual tours).
- Attend a college fair: virtual or in person
- Create the following accounts:
 1. Common App
 2. College Board
 3. FAFSA
 4. CCS profile
 5. Big Future
- Register for the SAT or ACT
- Letters of Recommendation (consider which teachers you would like to write your recommendations).

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- Finalize your college list and create a master calendar that includes all the applicable information regarding the applications for these schools. The calendar should include:
 - Tests you still may need to take and their registration deadlines;
 - The application choice (Early Decision, Early Action, Regular Decision, etc.) for each college and the due date for that choice;

- Financial aid forms required by the specific colleges and the deadlines for these.
- Ask your teachers for any needed recommendations. **REMEMBER TO GIVE TEACHERS AT LEAST TWO WEEKS NOTICE FOR WRITING THESE LETTERS.**

OCTOBER

- If using the Common Application, complete it and “invite” your teachers and counselor to complete their respective portions.
- Write first drafts of your application essays and have teachers and/or trusted others read and comment upon them. Revise.
- Fill out the FAFSA as soon after October 1 as possible. (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>)

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

- If you are applying Early Decision, Early Action, or to a school with Rolling Admission, your applications should be submitted by November 1.
- If any of the schools on your final college list require it, complete the CSS Profile need-based financial aid form. (<http://student.collegeboard.org/css-financial-aid-profile>)

- Keep up-to-date with any scholarship application due dates. Work on these applications and/or college applications weekly.
- Finish all applications possible by January.

JANUARY-MARCH

- Apply to any appropriate scholarships with spring deadlines.
- Continue with your studies. Accepting colleges do look at your second semester grades.

APRIL

- You should receive college acceptances and financial aid offers by mid-April.

MAY

- If you have not already done so, finalize your college decision by officially accepting admission to the college of your choice. Let your Mrs. Morrison (counselor), know of your final decision.

JUNE

- **REQUEST** your final transcript from Mrs. Pierce or Mr. Branch, and other necessary paperwork, to be sent to your new college or university. Give at least **TWO WEEKS NOTICE** for request.