

College Preparation Checklist

Advice to high school students from college admissions offices, financial advisors, and sites including www.collegeboard.com and www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov.

12th Grade

All Year

- Continue to save money for college.
- Continue to challenge yourself academically. Include at least 2 years of foreign language as well as some computer and fine arts classes in your course load.
- Stay involved in the extracurricular activities that interest you. Consider working or volunteering. Seek leadership roles in your activities, both curricular and extracurricular.
- Update your portfolio. Athletes, artists, and scholars should collect items such as game tapes, stats, awards, school papers, etc. to document their abilities.
- Work hard all year; admissions decisions are contingent upon a successful second semester.

Fall

- Meet with your school counselor to see if you are on track for college admission requirements.
- Take the SAT again, in October if possible. If your college requires SAT 2: Subject tests, you may also need to take these this fall.
- Apply to the colleges you have chosen. Prepare the applications carefully, and pay close attention to deadlines. Work with the Office of Academic Affairs to request transcripts and recommendations.
- Be sure to get a PIN at www.pin.ed.gov so that you can complete your FAFSA application in January. One of your parents must also get a PIN.

Winter

- Encourage your parents to complete income tax forms early. If your parents

have not completed the forms, you can provide estimated information on your federal student aid application, but remember to make any needed changes later.

- As soon as possible after January 1, complete and submit the FAFSA. You can do so online at www.fafsa.ed.gov. The form should be submitted no later than early February. You will receive your student aid report (SAR) within 1-4 weeks. Quickly make any necessary corrections and submit them to the FAFSA processor.
- Some schools will also require a CSS profile. Many private colleges use this information to help them award nonfederal student aid funds.
- Complete scholarship applications. Apply for as many as you can.

Spring

- Review your college acceptances and compare financial aid packages, as well as other, perhaps even more important factors, to help you make a final choice.
- Notify the school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit.



Office of Academic Affairs