

Senior 4-Year College Application Checklist

Throughout the year, be sure to send your College & Career Counselor proof of every scholarship offer, acceptance, full-time job offer, military enlistment, and FAFSA completion!

SUMMER

- Update your resume
- Create a professional, personal email that you will check regularly. Use that email address for Common App, FAFSA, college applications, College Board, and ACT so all of your college information comes to one place. *Colleges will rely on email and application portals to communicate with you.*
- Begin your personal statement (*Remember, it will take you at least 5 drafts to get it just right!*)
- Narrow down the list of schools you want to apply to – *you ideally want at least 2 stretch, 2 match, and 2 safety schools*
- Decide what type of admission you will apply to for each - *early decision, early action, etc.*
- Create a list of required application materials and application deadlines for each school on your list. *Pay close attention to financial aid priority deadlines for applications. NOT the application deadlines. They will be as early as November 1st!*
- If you plan to apply for schools requiring or suggesting letters of recommendation, think about who will write your letter
- Study for the SAT/ACT if you intend to take it again. *Khan Academy is a proven resource for improving your scores!*

AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

- Make sure you are in a contact group with your College & Career Counselor and that you are checking messages regularly! (Remind, Canvas, etc)
- Complete your Beginning of Year Senior Survey
- Be sure you've maintained a rigorous class schedule, even as a senior
- Keep those grades up. *Competitive schools can revoke your admission if your grades drop substantially your senior year, if you suddenly start taking less rigorous classes, or if you suddenly drop to a half-day schedule, depending on your unique circumstances.*
- Be sure you're involved in your community, on campus, and/or working part-time – but do NOT overcommit yourself. *Remember, quality over quantity.*
- Revise and finalize personal statement/admission essays
- Work on college applications – *be sure to send all SAT/ACT scores from your College Board and ACT accounts*
- Check with your College & Career Counselor to see if you are eligible for Application Fee Waivers and ACT/SAT fee waivers

Future
Ready!

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OCTOBER

- Complete your FAFSA. Send your confirmation page to your College & Career Counselor.
- Be sure you know the financial aid priority deadlines for each school you are applying to. You want to make sure each of your colleges have all of your materials before this date!
- Follow up with your applications for each school and be sure they have all required materials (including all SAT/ACT scores)- some schools will require additional materials, like quarter 1 grades or midterm grades, before they make an official admission decision
- Start applying to at least 2 scholarship per month (Your College & Career Counselor will have scholarship resources. You can also find scholarships on Xello!)

NOVEMBER

- Follow up with your applications for each school and be sure they have all required materials
- Apply to at least 2 scholarships
- Request your transcripts from your College & Career Counselor and apply for the Educational Foundation Scholarship – this is a scholarship application for Osceola County residents that automatically applies you for hundreds of local scholarships

DECEMBER

- Apply to at least 2 scholarships
- Confirm that schools you have not heard back from have all required application materials
- Create your FFAA account - *this connects you to additional state-based grant funding and scholarships you are eligible for, including Bright Futures!*
- Check the financial aid websites for the schools you applied to. Many will have additional scholarships you can apply to!

JANUARY

- Apply to at least 2 scholarships
- Apply for housing as soon as you decide on which school you intend to enroll in

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FEBRUARY

- Apply to at least 2 scholarships
- Take a final tour of schools you were admitted to if you are still undecided
- Contact financial aid offices as you get acceptances to explore your financial aid package AND to make sure your school has everything they need on file to offer you a financial aid package
- Study for and plan to take any AP exams

MARCH & APRIL

- Apply for housing if you haven't already. If you wait too long, housing will be full!
- Pay your admission fee/enrollment deposit for the school you choose
- Make sure your residency has been approved for in-state colleges
- Notify schools you've been accepted to that you do not plan to attend
- Sign up for freshman orientation
- Make sure you complete any placements tests required by your school before attending orientation (*science and math are the most common*)
- Complete your End of Year Senior Survey

MAY

- Apply to at least 2 scholarships
- Write thank you notes to teachers, counselors, or family members who were particularly helpful to you in your application journey
- Check with health services at your college to see if there are any health requirements needed to attend school (*vaccinations, a physical, etc.*)
- If you were a dual enrollment student, be sure you've sent a transcript from the college you took classes at to the college you will enroll in.
- ENJOY GRADUATION AND CELEBRATE YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENT!



Future Ready!