

Planning Checklist for Your Senior Year

September

- I have registered for the October SAT Exam.
- I have reviewed all of the information in my college folders. I have thrown out all unnecessary information to focus better on my top choices.
- I have prepared a list of all deadlines and necessary materials for the schools that remain in my college folders.

October-November

- I have made my final college visits and contacted alumni from the schools I am interested in to get advice on the application process.
- I have taken the SAT exam in October.
- I have contacted the financial aid office at the schools I am considering and have found out what forms they need to consider me for financial aid and the deadlines for submitting those forms.
- I have applied for private scholarships.
- I have obtained a copy of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) so that my family can review the application requirements.
- I have completed any "early admissions" applications my colleges may offer (many schools require these applications to be received by November 15).

December- February

- I have finished all of my essays and applications and I have made sure that all of my recommendations have been prepared.
- I have kept copies of all my tax information (and my parents have kept copies of their tax information). We will use these materials to complete the FAFSA.
- My family has filled out the FAFSA and we will return it to the processor as soon after January 1 as possible. (The FAFSA can't be processed if returned before this date).

March- June

- In March I received my Student Aid Report (SAR). This report tells me about my eligibility to receive a Pell Grant and it also includes a calculation of my estimated family contribution.
- I have reviewed and signed the SAR. I have returned this report to the processor along with documentation regarding any state or private scholarships I have been awarded. If there are errors on the SAR, I will send the necessary correction back to the processor.
- I have reviewed the college financial aid award package that I have received. My family and I are considering how much debt we will need to incur and how much we can afford to repay.

I have decided on my college and I have begun making attendance preparations. I need to schedule meetings with the financial aid office, new student orientation, and other on-campus events.

I have notified the schools where I have chosen not to attend.