

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.

11th 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.
- ❑ Update your portfolio. Athletes, artists, and scholars should collect items such as game tapes, stats, awards, school papers, etc. to document their abilities.
- ❑ As you visit colleges, make notes. Make lists to help you compare location, size, cost, majors, dorms, etc.
- ❑ Investigate the different types of financial aid. Check for announcements from the Office of Academic Affairs regarding scholarships and use the College Resource Room to do research in the College Handbook, etc. Search online as well.

Fall

- ❑ Take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) at school. Use the feedback on your score sheet as well as that available at www.collegeboard.com/psatextra to prepare for the SAT next spring.
- ❑ If you plan to attend a military academy, you should contact your US Senator or Representative regarding an appointment to one of the service academies.

Spring

- ❑ Register and take the SAT. Check with the colleges that interest you regarding the requirements for SAT 2: Subject tests.
- ❑ Meet with your school counselor or mentor to discuss senior year courses. Consider taking more honors or AP courses for which you qualify as well as a third year of foreign language.

Summer Before 12th Grade

- ❑ Make sure you file with the NCA Clearinghouse if you want to play for a Division 1 or 2 college team. When registering for the SAT enter 0000 as one of the college choices to have test scores sent to the Clearinghouse.
- ❑ Plan to use your summer wisely: work, volunteer, do community service, or go on a missions trip. Do some summer reading (Teachers can make recommendations).
- ❑ Narrow your list of colleges. Contact them and request applications and other admission information. Mark the deadlines on your calendar. Ask about financial aid.
- ❑ Decide whether you are going to apply for early decision or regular decision. Find out about the program deadlines and requirements.
- ❑ Begin preparing for the application process. Draft application essays, collect writing samples, update your portfolio again.
- ❑ Contact offices regarding activities in which you would like to participate in college (including coaches, directors, etc.) to ask about scholarships.



Office of Academic Affairs