



College Prep Checklist

For High School Juniors & Seniors

11th Grade (Junior Year)

FALL

- ☐ Meet with your counselor to review graduation and college plans.
- ☐ Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October.
- ☐ Start researching colleges and build a list.
- ☐ Register for SAT/ACT exams.
- ☐ Update your resume with honors and activities.
- ☐ Attend college fairs (in-person or virtual).
- ☐ Begin Scholarship Search (Some scholarships are available as early as Soph/Jr Year)

WINTER

- ☐ Start SAT/ACT prep with free tools like Khan Academy.
- ☐ Narrow your college list.
- ☐ Explore scholarships available to juniors.

SPRING

- ☐ Take the SAT and/or ACT.
- ☐ Visit college campuses (virtual or in person).
- ☐ Ask teachers for letters of recommendation.
- ☐ Draft summer goals (internship, volunteer, enrichment).

SUMMER

- ☐ Take summer classes or work part-time.
- ☐ Start a draft of your college essay.
- ☐ Create a Common App account.
- ☐ Research FAFSA and financial aid options.

12th Grade (Senior Year)

FALL

- ☐ Finalize college list and application deadlines.
- ☐ Request transcripts and letters of recommendation.
- ☐ Complete and submit college applications early.
- ☐ Submit the FAFSA (opens October 1).
- ☐ Apply for scholarships—at least one per week.

WINTER

- ☐ Compare financial aid offers.
- ☐ Submit any additional aid forms (CSS Profile, taxes).
- ☐ Track updates in application portals.

SPRING

- ☐ Receive admission decisions.
- ☐ Accept and notify colleges accordingly.
- ☐ Submit deposits and register for orientation.

SUMMER

- ☐ Buy supplies and finalize aid and housing.
- ☐ Take placement tests if required.
- ☐ Celebrate—you did it!