

Stay Strong Seniors

This is it! Enjoy your Senior year of high school but help yourself by staying determined, focused, and prepared. Take responsibility and find out ways that will help you succeed in your future.

1. Remain prepared.

- Keep adding to your resume of abilities, activities, and personal qualities.
- Narrow your list of college possibilities and college majors.
- Create a master calendar that has test dates, college application deadlines, etc.
- Start researching information on financial aid and scholarships.
- Make sure test scores have been sent to the college(s) of your choice.
- Visit collegeboard.com regularly – there are step-by-step instructions to help you with almost all your college related questions.

2. Think ahead.

- Begin making decisions to whether or not you will apply for early admissions.
- Go ahead and at least look at college applications so you'll know if you need to submit essays, letters of recommendation, etc.
- Ask teachers or other adults for letters of recommendation. Make sure to give them adequate information and time to complete the work.

3. Meet with your high school counselor.

- Ask specific questions about college choices and majors.
- Find out what resources are available to help you.

4. Stay serious.

- Do not get senioritis!
- Colleges do look at your second semester grades.

5. Finish strong.

- Make sure college deposits have been paid and housing arrangements are made.
- Be in contact with the college advisor assigned to you.

Become familiar with the following websites:

- www.gacollege411.org (general college information)
- www.collegeboard.com (SAT practice and registration)
- www.actstudent.org (registration for ACT)
- www.ecampustours.com (virtual college campus tours)
- www.cappex.com (general help with college questions)

Make sure if you create an account to keep the username and password somewhere you will remember it. You will use some of these accounts each year in high school.

Senior Monthly Checklist

June

- Compile a list of schools that you want to learn more about.
- Research the schools on your list.
- Create a resume of your achievements and accomplishments, extra-curricular activities, volunteer/community service, and work experience.
- Begin to plan college visits.

July

- Continue to research schools and refine your list of potential colleges.
- Begin to take note of early decision and scholarship deadlines.
- Talk to current college students who are home for the summer to gather information.
- Plan the dates that you intend to take the SAT or ACT in the fall.
- Open up a checking account if you don't already have one; get experience managing your own money.

August

- Register for SAT/ACT dates in September and October.
- Begin your senior year strong academically; your first semester grades are the last grades colleges will see prior to making an enrollment decision on your application.
- Make plans to visit potential schools.
- Continue to refine your list of schools.

September

- Visit schools and refine your list of potential schools.
- Take the SAT/ACT.
- Begin preparing early decision applications and scholarship applications, including letters of recommendation (give at least 2-3 weeks notice).
- Register for next SAT/ACT.
- Keep your grades up.

October

- Submit early decision applications -- have someone look over your application essays.
- Submit scholarship applications.
- Visit colleges and refine your list of potential schools.
- Take the SAT/ACT -- these are likely the last scores that schools will see for early decision applicants.
- Keep your grades up.
- Research scholarships.

November

- Submit scholarship applications.
- Visit colleges and refine your list of potential schools.
- Take the SAT/ACT.
- Keep your grades up.
- Research scholarships

December

- Take the SAT/ACT.
- Narrow your list of schools to those in which you are most interested.
- Research scholarships.

January

- Prepare your taxes and submit the FAFSA.
- Take the SAT/ACT if needed.
- Prepare and submit admissions applications.
- Research scholarships.

February

- Prepare your taxes and submit the FAFSA if you have not done so.
- Last chance to take the SAT/ACT if needed.
- Prepare and submit admissions applications.
- Research scholarships.

March

- Prepare your taxes and submit the FAFSA if you have not done so.
- Prepare and submit admissions applications.
- Research scholarships.

April

- Prepare your taxes and submit the FAFSA if you have not done so.
- Prepare and submit admissions applications.
- Research scholarships.
- If you have been accepted to a school that you are certain you will not attend, let the admissions department personnel know so they can give your spot to someone else.

May

- Prepare your taxes and submit the FAFSA if you have not done so.
- Prepare and submit admissions applications.
- Research scholarships.
- If you have been accepted to a school that you are certain you will not attend, let the admissions department personnel know so they can give your spot to someone else.

Following are additional websites where you may find great sources for private scholarships and other types of financial aid.

www.finaid.org

www.fastweb.org

www.scholarships101.com

www.scholarships.com

www.college.scholarships.com

www.collegeboard.com

www.studentaid.ed.gov

www.coca-colascholars.org (The Coca-Cola Foundation)

www.horatioalger.com/scholarships (The Horatio Alger Association)