

Monthly Checklist for COLLEGE BOUND SENIORS

SEPTEMBER

- ❑ Sign up to take or re-take the ACT (or the SAT, if required).
- ❑ Meet with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements (college bound athletes should also check to make sure they will be fulfilling NCAA requirements).
- ❑ Plan out your year. Stay on track by checking on deadlines and important dates.
- ❑ Sign up for college visitations at your school and visit college campuses.
- ❑ Create a college file or folder where you can keep college applications, brochures, college testing dates, information on college fairs, your senior resume, etc.
- ❑ Attend a college information night at your school.

OCTOBER

- ❑ Start giving serious thought about the colleges to which you will apply.
- ❑ Narrow down your college choices. Choose 3-5 schools (1 REACH school, 2-3 TARGET schools, 1 SAFETY school).
- ❑ Request letters of reference from teachers, counselors, coaches, and employers. Don't wait until right before application deadlines to ask!
- ❑ Pay close attention to deadlines! Make a calendar list of the admissions and financial aid deadlines at each of the schools to which you are applying.
- ❑ Start building the framework of your college essay.
- ❑ Start filling out your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). The FAFSA window opens October 1st.
- ❑ Attend College/Financial Aid Night at your high school.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

- ❑ Submit your completed college applications by Thanksgiving.
- ❑ Double check with your teachers/counselor that all recommendations have been submitted.
- ❑ Look for early decision acceptance letters from colleges.
- ❑ Download your **Student Aid Report (SAR)**. Many scholarship applications require that you submit a copy.
- ❑ Start researching national, state and local scholarship opportunities. Talk to your school counselor!



JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- ☐ Check with colleges that they have received your application and that the application is complete.
- ☐ Check with colleges that they have received your completed FAFSA.
- ☐ Request that your mid-year transcripts be sent if colleges request them.
- ☐ **OFFERS ON THE TABLE!** Compare the financial aid packages being offered from all the colleges to which you applied.
- ☐ Decide which college you will attend and notify the school of your decision. All other schools you applied to should be notified that you will not be attending.
- ☐ Check with your chosen college to see if they can offer you any additional grants, loans, or a work-study placement. *If the financial aid package you are offered doesn't cover the full cost of tuition, consider other ways you can contribute to your education.
- ☐ Start filling out scholarship applications.

MARCH/APRIL

- ☐ If you plan to live on campus, find out when campus housing applications are due.
- ☐ Check in with your school counselor to track your progress towards graduation.
- ☐ Continue applying for scholarships!
- ☐ **Be aware of confirmation deadlines.** For most colleges, you must confirm your attendance by May 1st.

Be Aware of KEY DEADLINES!

FAFSA - There are federal and state deadlines. Colleges may also have a specific deadline.

*Check fafsa.ed.gov

Early Decision- Deadline on college website admissions page, (for most, Nov 1-Dec 1)

MAY/JUNE

- ☐ **Know the NEXT STEPS!**
Talk with your college about the steps you need to take to ensure a successful transition into your freshman year of college (for example, you may need to pay housing deposits, register for freshman orientation, schedule placement exams, and register for classes).
- ☐ Have your school counselor send a final transcript to your college.
- ☐ Prepare for Fall! pay attention to information your college provides you regarding events that you should attend.
- ☐ Be sure to write thank you notes to any donors who provided you a scholarship.
- ☐ Get a summer job and **SAVE** money!

Good luck as you
go off to college!

