Application Checklist- Senior Year

AUGUST – START STRONG

- ☐ **Aug 1**: Common App opens – create account, fill out basic info
- ☐ Start building my College List and label each as Reach, Match, or Safety
- ☐ Go to college visits at my school and college fairs. Touchpoints matter!
- ☐ Start outlining/drafting my Common App personal essay
- ☐ Ask teachers / counselors for letters of recommendation (early + kindly!)
- ☐ Add all known deadlines to my Calendar
- ☐ Start researching school-specific requirements
- ☐ If you need to audition or submit a portfolio make sure you know the requirements and deadlines!

SEPTEMBER – LOCK IT IN

- ☐ **Sept 12:** Deadline to Register for October ACT
- ☐ **Sept 19**: Deadline to Register for October SAT
- ☐ Finalize my college list and double-check deadlines
- ☐ Begin writing supplemental essays
- ☐ Send transcript request forms to my counselor
- ☐ Set up application usernames & passwords

OCTOBER – DEADLINES & AID

- ☐ **Oct 1**: FAFSA & CSS Profile opens (double-check if delayed this year)
- ☐ **Oct 15**: Some Early Action / Early Decision deadlines
- ☐ Confirm rec letters were submitted + write thank-you notes
- ☐ Confirm I’ve got:
    - ☐ Personal essay
    - ☐ Supplemental essays
    - ☐ Transcript
    - ☐ Recommendations

- ☐ Test scores (if submitting)
- ☐ Track my progress in the Application Tracker

🌟 **Power Move: Submit FAFSA early—some states run out of aid fast!**

NOVEMBER – EARLY BIRD ACTION

- ☐ **Nov 1–15:** Early Action/Early Decision applications due
- ☐ Submit FAFSA & financial aid forms for EA/ED schools
- ☐ Log into each portal to check for missing items
- ☐ Finalize and proofread any Regular Decision supplements

DECEMBER – WRAP UP

- ☐ Mid-Dec: Look out for Early Decision results
- ☐ Send final thank-you notes to teachers/counselors
- ☐ Update colleges with new grades, awards, or achievements
- ☐ Use winter break to:
  - ☐ Finalize Regular Decision apps
  - ☐ Submit transcript requests for Jan 1 schools
  - ☐ Complete scholarship apps (some due in Dec!)

JANUARY – REGULAR DECISION

- ☐ **Jan 1–15**: Regular Decision applications due
- ☐ Submit any last-minute scholarship applications
- ☐ Check financial aid portals for missing items
- ☐ Track everything in my Application Tracker
- ☐ Watch out for Common App maintenance window late Jan

FEB – MAR – DECISIONS + $$$

- ☐ **March 1**: Many state FAFSA deadlines

- ☐ Send mid-year reports if required
- ☐ Keep up with scholarship deadlines (some go into March!)

APRIL – DECISIONS

- ☐ Attend admitted student days or virtual tours
- ☐ Accept or appeal financial aid as needed
- ☐ Make final college decision (some schools require before May 1)
- ☐ Submit housing deposit and sign up for orientation
- ☐ Send final transcript request to counselor

MAY – JUNE – DONE

- ☐ **May 1**: College Decision Day!
- ☐ Notify schools I'm not attending
- ☐ **June 30**: Final federal FAFSA deadline
- ☐ Watch email for orientation, summer programs, and registration
- ☐ Take AP/IB exams if applicable

CELEBRATE!

Application Checklist 2026-2027: Junior Year