

# Senior Year College Checklist

## Early Senior Year: Get List, Letters, and Essay Ready.

- ☐ Make a list of schools to apply to. You can use [this tracker](#) to organize your list. :)
  - ☐ To explore different colleges, check out [this website](#).
- ☐ Create your [Common App](#) account if needed for applications.
- ☐ Request recommendation letters. You can fill out [this brag sheet](#) to give your recommenders.  
Give them **at least 3 weeks** to write the letter.
  - ☐ 2 letters from teachers (1 of which is related to your area of academic interest)
  - ☐ 1 letter from guidance counselor
- ☐ Send thank-you notes to recommendation writers.
- ☐ Start the essay drafting and revision process 2 months prior to the application deadline.
- ☐ Draft initial essay.
- ☐ Proofread essay for spelling and grammar.
- ☐ Have 2 people read your essay.
- ☐ Revise your essay.
- ☐ Proofread your revision.
- ☐ [Create your FSA ID](#) and have a parent/guardian create one as well.

## Fall of Senior Year: Make a Campus Visit. Apply for Financial Aid.

- ☐ Submit [FAFSA®](#) if eligible - **opens Oct 1!**
- ☐ Submit [CSS PROFILE](#) if needed.
- ☐ Make a note of the priority financial aid deadline.
- ☐ Make a note of the regular financial aid deadline.
- ☐ Start applying for scholarships (check the senior Google Classroom and the links on the last page)

- ☐ Submit college aid form if needed.
- ☐ Submit a state aid form if needed.
- ☐ Check the college's financial aid website to see if you need to submit any additional institution forms.

## **Submit the Application. Pay Fees by Deadlines.**

- ☐ Complete college application.
- ☐ Save copies of your application and application materials.
- ☐ Pay application fee. Submit an application fee waiver if eligible.
- ☐ Submit application.
- ☐ Request high school transcript to be sent.
- ☐ Request midyear grade report to be sent.
- ☐ Confirm receipt of application materials by checking your application status online.
- ☐ Send additional material if needed.
- ☐ Tell your school counselor that you applied.
- ☐ Receive letter from admissions office.

## **Senior Spring: Make Your Selections.**

- ☐ Apply for housing and meal plans, if applicable.
- ☐ Receive financial aid award letter.
- ☐ Accept financial aid offer.
- ☐ Notify whichever colleges you're not planning to attend.
- ☐ Keep applying for scholarships!

## **Scholarship Resources:**

- [College Board](#)
  - Note: the College Board's [Opportunity Scholarship](#) is now available for the class of 2026!

- [Scholarships 360](#)
- [Bold.org](#)
  - Have to make an account
  - Access to tons of specific scholarships for high school and college students ○ See [this video](#) for more information
- [Going Merry](#)
  - Have to make an account
  - Includes local scholarships
- [Scholarships.com](#)
  - Have to make an account
  - Good for niche scholarships
  - Be careful not to click on ads
- [Fastweb](#)
  - Have to make an account
- [Scholarship tracker template \(Google sheets\)](#)