

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 \(Google sheets\)](#)