

LAUNCH

one generation mentoring the next

December Calendar of Events	<p>Wed. Dec 6 - Office Hours & Career Panel (Advertising/Marketing/PR) Sat. Dec. 9 - Office Hours 12/23 - 1/7 - Students on Winter Break</p> <p>View & RSVP for career panel here - all students required to attend 1 panel this semester!</p>
December Objectives (resources included in subsequent pages)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor progress using our first semester completion checklist! • Check-in on your communication- reflect and adjust • Celebrate your hard work; use December or January to do an activity together! Activities Guide included.
Monthly Meeting Survey	<p>Click here to take the December Survey</p>
Coming up in January - attend our second semester kickoff to get on track for success in 2nd semester!	<p>Mon. Jan 8- School resumes, 2nd semester begins Mon. Jan 15- No School, MLK Jr. Day Wed. Jan 17- 2nd Semester Kickoff (option 1) Sat. Jan 27- 2nd Semester Kickoff (option 2) Sign Up for a Kickoff Here</p>
<i>Suggested</i> items to complete before your next meeting:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete any remaining applications • Identify scholarships due in Jan-Feb to prioritize

View the [November Agenda here](#) to complete any lingering items from your last meeting

First Semester Completion Checklist - College Items

☐ FAFSA:

- ☐ Student has submitted their FAFSA application & received their Student Aid Report with an Expected Family Contribution (log into FAFSA.gov to check for the Student Aid Report if you're unsure. Expected Family Contribution can be 00000 but should have a number, if left blank that indicates there is an error in the FAFSA that needs to be resolved).
- ☐ Student has loaded in their college list to the FAFSA; there is space for 10 schools and schools can be added/removed if student has already been receiving rejection/acceptance letters. Prioritize schools on the FAFSA first as accepted, then as waiting to hear, and remove any schools to which the student has been rejected.

A note about EFC: If the EFC has an asterisk next to the number (EFC=00000*), the student is being *verified*. This is not a bad thing, but means the student will need to submit extra paperwork at *every* school where they've been accepted before the school will send their financial aid award letter. Have the student check the online portal at colleges and/or call the financial aid department to get insight on how to download and submit the verification paperwork.

☐ Applications

- ☐ Student has submitted applications to all schools on their list.
- ☐ Suggestion: Apply to 1-2 Safety Schools (will more than likely be accepted, student's GPA and ACT fall above average range for school), 3-4 Match Schools (60-70% chance of acceptance, student's GPA and ACT falls within average range for school), and 1-2 Reach Schools (smaller chance of getting in, student's GPA and ACT fall slightly below average range for school).

☐ Application Follow-Up:

- ☐ Student has checked the online portal for all schools to which they've applied to check for application status (are there any missing items?).
- ☐ Student has checked the online portal for all school to which they've been accepted to check for financial aid status and any missing items – are they being verified? Is there extra paperwork they need to submit? Has the school received their FAFSA?

☐ Scholarships:

- ☐ Develop a list of scholarships to apply for, their requirements, and the deadlines.
- ☐ Suggestion: Before the end of senior year, students should apply to a *minimum* of 5-10 scholarships - the more you apply for, the better your chances of making your dream school affordable!

Looking Ahead to 2nd Semester - Career Readiness Focus

- ❑ **LinkedIn Profile** ([view resource here](#)):
 - ❑ Continue to add to your profile, connect with professionals, and follow influencers to increase your LinkedIn presence
- ❑ **Exploration:** Explore majors and careers that match your strengths and ambition
 - ❑ Suggestion: Check out the resources on [Big Future](#) to help explore!
 - ❑ What majors are offered at each of the colleges where the student has applied that align with their goals?
- ❑ **Job Shadow:** Reach out to mentor's contacts and other related professionals in fields where the student has interest to set up job shadow opportunities on days with no school
- ❑ **Internship:** Research and apply for internship opportunities for high school graduates that the student can begin for the summer

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Communication Check-In:

- How has communication been going so far? Are both student and mentor satisfied?
- Discuss the student's winter break (Dec. 23 – Jan. 8): will communication be difficult during this time? Does the student have wifi at home?
 - If the student does not have wifi, consider meeting at a coffee shop/library to continue working on scholarships
 - The Launch U office will be open Jan. 2-6 during the day and the student can email launchuclassof2017@launchu.org to set up time to come in and work if they want! We have laptops ☺
- If student will be without *both* phone and wifi, when will your next check-in occur? Make a plan.
- Need any help discussing communication? Loop in Lauren!
[312-805-3198](tel:312-805-3198)/launchuclassof2017@launchu.org.

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December Activities Guide

Volunteering

- [Greater Chicago Food Depository](#) is always looking for extra help. Volunteer at one of its member soup kitchens, pantries or shelters by serving a meal or delivering food.
- [Salvation Army](#) needs volunteers to package and distribute meals to the hungry, sort toys for underprivileged children and ring bells next to those famous red kettles.

Things to do & see in Chicago

- Visit the Art Institute (free admission on Thursday nights with Illinois ID)

- [Navy Pier Winter Wonderfest](#) (\$27 per person)
- [Ice Skating in Millennium Park](#) (free admission, skate rental \$12-14)
- Zoo Lights at Lincoln Park Zoo (free admission)
- Visit [Hot Chocolate restaurant](#) in Wicker Park for yummy, warm drinks!