

Senior Year Checklist

Princeton High School-Class of 2025

Fall

- ☐ Take a deep breath! Fall is going to be the busiest season of your senior year.
- ☐ Join a new club at school. This might not be your top priority at the moment, but it is a good idea to get involved in high school if you haven't already. It's a last chance to make an impression on colleges and you may even find a new hobby that you can continue in college.
- ☐ Retake Your SAT/ACT. If you aren't satisfied with your previous score, take the test again and give it all you've got. It's pretty common to take the tests senior year. Note that some colleges are now test-optional or test-blind, so if you would prefer not to take the exam OR if you don't feel you'll be able to perform well, consider focusing on colleges that don't require applicants to submit SAT/ACT scores.
- ☐ Apply early decision if you have a dream school. Remember, early decision is binding, meaning you must attend the school if they accept you. Deadlines for early decision are usually in November.
- ☐ Narrow down your college list to five to ten schools. Consider factors like college size, location, and cost to help guide your decision. If you're struggling to narrow it down, meet with your school counselor for some assistance.
- ☐ Visit colleges you're interested in. Most colleges offer organized visits to potential students. This is a great opportunity to go see the campus, experience the student life and ask any questions you may have. You can schedule these visits yourself or have Dr. Henke help you. Make sure to get a College Visit Form and return it to Amanda.

- ☐ Keep up with your school work. Your grades in senior year matter. It's not time to start slacking off.
- ☐ Finalize your resume.
- ☐ Perfect your personal statements for applications and scholarships.
- ☐ Ask for letters of recommendation from teachers or a school counselor who knows you well. Don't ask for recommendations at the last minute. Provide your recommenders with a list of your extracurricular activities and your academic records.
- ☐ Submit your college applications. Try and get your applications in before the start of your winter break. If you can't afford the application fees, you can ask your school counselor to help you request a fee waiver.
- ☐ If you are submitting SAT/ACT scores, you'll need to login to your accounts with those test providers and officially request that scores be sent to all of the colleges you are applying to.
- ☐ Find and apply for scholarships. You don't need to be the top ranked person of your class to win a scholarship. Scholarships award all types of students like those pursuing a STEM major or students who live in Missouri. --local scholarships will be available after winter break
- ☐ Gather all the documents you need for your scholarship applications.
- ☐ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). To qualify for most financial aid, you need to fill out this form. --Available October 1st at fafsa.gov. **Financial Aid Night is November 2nd at 6pm in the library**
- ☐ Talk to your parents about financial aid. After filing the FAFSA, you'll know your eligibility for financial aid. This is a good time to discuss college costs with your parents.

- ☐ Order your yearbook (Ms. Shew) and class ring if you haven't already so you have something to cherish from high school.
- ☐ Say cheeeeeeese! Get your senior pictures taken.
- ☐ After applying to colleges, check with them to see that they received your supplemental materials like test scores, letters of recommendation and transcripts.
- ☐ Be sure to monitor your email, and review all emails you receive from the colleges you've applied to.
- ☐ Create portal accounts for each college, per the emails you'll receive. This is critical, because most colleges will communicate with you primarily through your portal.

Winter

- ☐ Work hard in your classes. Your GPA still matters!
- ☐ Monitor your college portal accounts – you might actually find out if you are accepted earlier than you expect. Also check any open items on your “to do list.”
- ☐ If you are finding that some schools are slow in updating their portals, call or email the admissions office to check to see if they need more materials from you.
- ☐ Consider retaking the ACT/SAT if you can still submit scores to the colleges you applied to. --Dr. Henke will be giving it at school March 7th (see her to sign up)
- ☐ Complete any other college applications you may still have to submit.
- ☐ Save money by getting a part-time job. This is also a great way to gain experience.
- ☐ Continue looking for scholarships.

Spring

- ☐ Check your college portals and email daily, and keep an eye on your mailbox too!
Colleges usually will make their admission decisions by the end of March, but it may happen much sooner than that depending on the school. Good luck!
- ☐ Meet with your school counselor to make sure you're on track to graduate.
- ☐ Revisit colleges to help you make a decision.
- ☐ Compare [financial aid options](#) and choose a financial aid package that is right for you. Before accepting a package, make sure you understand what the requirements are to continue to receive the financial aid.
- ☐ Keep up the hard work in school, as tempting as it is to relax by now. This is especially important if you get waitlisted from college. Colleges will want to see how you've been performing.
- ☐ Continue with your part-time job to save money for your college expenses.
- ☐ Accept an admissions offer! Notify colleges by May 1.
- ☐ Let your school counselor know which admissions offer you've accepted.
- ☐ Waitlisted? Before losing hope, write a letter to the college's admissions team and ask what you can do to improve your chances of getting accepted.
- ☐ Enroll in the college you accept and submit all required paperwork. This includes scheduling courses, signing up for orientation, and finding housing.
- ☐ Keep applying for scholarships.--Local scholarships will be available on in your Google Classroom starting in February
- ☐ Send your final transcript to the college you will be attending.
- ☐ Get your cap and gown ready for graduation. Take it out of the bag and hang it up!

- ☐ Go to prom! You've seen it in all the movies, now it's time to experience it yourself.
- ☐ **Graduate high school and frame your diploma! You've made it through four years of high school and you've worked really hard to get here. You deserve to celebrate! Invite some family and friends and celebrate all that you've accomplished.**

Summer

- ☐ Continue with your previous job or find a summer job to save money for college.
- ☐ Keep seeking out scholarship opportunities. There are plenty of scholarships that have deadlines only in July or August.
- ☐ Consider enrolling in a community college class to get a leg-up on your freshman year of college.
- ☐ If you'll be moving to a dorm or apartment, start packing for your move.
- ☐ Spend time with family and friends during this special time as you prepare for the next step in your college journey!

Note: This resource was modified from a list found on scholarshipowl.com. If you have not done some of the items or did them out of order, no worries! These are only suggestions! Talk to Dr. Henke with any questions.