

HVA Senior Checklist- Class of 2026

Apply for TN Promise!

Everyone should apply! Free 2 year community college or trade school.

- [TN Promise information](#)
- [How to create TSAC Account](#)
- [TN Promise Application Instructions](#)
 - ☐ *Note the TN Promise application year is 26-27*
- [TSAC Portal](#)
- [TCAT Programs](#)

Preparing to Apply

- ☐ Check the [Senior Calendar](#). It will be updated frequently.
- ☐ Check your school email and student square for senior dates and information.
- ☐ Talk to your family about funds available for college. College costs have increased over the past few years.
- ☐ Make a list of the schools that you are interested in attending. Consider size, location, private, public. [This article](#) from Big Futures may help you.
- ☐ Mark all your schools in SCOIR as following or applying.
 - [Managing colleges in SCOIR](#)
- ☐ Check the college visit calendar in SCOIR and register for the visits. Most visits take place during study hall. The current list of visits for this year can be found [HERE](#). Visits are scheduled frequently so check SCOIR often.
- ☐ Attend the College Fair on Tuesday, September 23 at Bearden High School from 5:30-7pm. No RSVP needed.
- ☐ Visit the colleges! Seniors can have 2 college visits this year.
- ☐ Research school application deadlines and make notes on scholarship opportunities and deadlines. Some people love a google spreadsheet for this. [Here's an example spreadsheet](#).
- ☐ Do you need to improve your ACT score?
 - HVA is offering a Senior ACT on September 30th. You will get a code in September during study hall to link the test to your MyACT account.
 - Do you need to sign up for any additional tests? Additional ACT dates found [HERE](#).
 - Some schools allow you to apply test optional. Let Mrs. Burkhalter know if you are applying test optional.
 - Additional ACT test prep resources can be found [HERE](#).
- ☐ Know the difference between Early Action and Early Decision. Early Decision is BINDING. More information found [HERE](#).

- ☐ Update your resume in SCOIR.
- ☐ Do you need teacher/counselor recommendations?
 - Ask teachers if they are willing, either in person or through a professional email. If teacher agrees, invite them through SCOIR
 - Supply teachers with your resume (download from SCOIR).
 - [Directions for requesting LOR.](#) Complete brag sheet in SCOIR. Teachers will be able to view it.
- ☐ Do not use your KCS email for applications. It will go away when you graduate. You need a professional, personal email account- like gmail.
- ☐ Do you need an essay for your applications?
 - Work on this now and research - what are colleges looking for?
 - [College Essay Guy](#) is an excellent resource.
 - Ask your English teacher to proofread your essay.
- ☐ Common App- to use or not to use?
 - If only one or two schools it may be easier to apply through college websites. Not all schools accept Common App.
 - Don't use Common App if you don't need it. It's a great resource if you are applying to many schools that are out of state and they all accept Common App.
 - Even if you use the Common App, all documents will be sent through SCOIR. Instructions can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).
- ☐ Submit your applications by the appropriate deadline!
 - All UTK apps need to be submitted by November 1 for Early Action and December 15 for Regular Admission. More information found [HERE](#).
- ☐ After you submit your application, check each college's portal. Every college will have a portal or an email that you have to check. Communication from schools will come to the portal or the college email.

Financial Aid

- ☐ The most amount of money you will receive will be directly from the college. You can also receive departmental scholarships.
- ☐ Federal and State Aid will be received by completing the FAFSA which opens in December. Listen for announcements. We will have help sessions for this. To get the HOPE/TN Promise, you must complete the FAFSA
- ☐ Other scholarships- Where do your parents work? Does their company offer a scholarship? Do you have a job? Do they have any scholarships? Chick-fil-a, etc
- ☐ Mrs. Burkhalter will post scholarships that she receives on the HVA website. Please check your parent square messages. Community/local scholarships are usually not available until the Spring Semester. Current list of scholarships can be found [HERE](#) but this list is not all encompassing!