

College and Career Preparation: 12TH GRADE

Fall: Take the SAT or ACT again if you are not happy with your score or if you have not yet taken the exam.

- ★ Narrow down your list of colleges that you are interested in attending.
- ★ Consider setting up a job shadow or internship for your Senior Project.
- ★ Meet with your counselor to go over the senior checklist:
 1. Your credit status
 2. Your senior courses
 3. College applications
 4. The application process in general (with deadlines)
 5. Letters of recommendation
 6. Admission essays
 7. Tests such as ACT, SAT
 8. NCAA eligibility
 9. Any testing or retesting
 10. Requesting transcripts

Winter: Attend Financial Aid Night with your parent/guardian.

- ★ Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and if necessary the Financial Aid PROFILE as part of the application process. (Note to parents/guardians: Previous year income taxes must be completed first.)
- ★ Research and apply for scholarships including your high school's local scholarship(s).

Spring: Watch for acceptance notifications from colleges/universities.

- ★ Watch for financial aid notification awards/information.
- ★ Make your decision about which college/university you want to attend and notify schools of your intent by timelines designated.
- ★ Talk to the financial aid office at your school of choice about all of their financial aid options.
- ★ Secure housing, set up appointments for any testing required and attend orientation.
- ★ Send your final high school transcript to the college you will be attending in the fall.
- ★ Counselors will ensure you have met graduation requirements and are ready to participate in your high school graduation ceremony.

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College and Career Preparation: Every Year

Take the most challenging classes you can handle and keep focused on your school work.

Most colleges require 4 years of English and math, 3 years of social studies and science, and many require 2 years of a world language.

Be involved in school or community activities that you enjoy.

Consider working or volunteering to create a strong résumé. Some places of employment have tuition reimbursement options.

Remember it's important not to overdo it. It is better to have experiences that are of value to you. You can't do it all, so choose carefully.

Enroll in a summer program: See your counselor for a list of options.

Keep track of your academic, athletic, work and volunteering along with other achievements – you need this information when you build your résumé.

Talk to family, teachers and mentors about their career path and high school success.

Keep your grades up to attain the highest GPA possible. All of your grades count towards your cumulative GPA.

Review your graduation planner and transcript for accuracy and to make sure you are on track to graduate.

Know what is required for high school graduation.

