

Senior Year Survival Guide

Class of 2022



KENNEWICK
HIGH SCHOOL

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
 TRI-CITIES

GEAR UP 

LOGIN INFORMATION KEEPER

Website:

Username:

Password:

Website:

Username:

Password:

Website:

Username:

Password:

Website:

Username:

Password:

Website:

Username:

Password:

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2021-2022 Senior Year Checklist

FALL
2021



August/September

- Research and tour colleges or vocational schools
- Contact your counselor to discuss graduation requirements
- Finalize your list of colleges or vocational schools
- Create a calendar of admissions, scholarships, and financial aid deadlines
- Create Federal Student Aid (FSA) ID - Student & Parent

October

- Complete FAFSA/WASFA (OPENS October 1st)**
- Request letters of recommendations from teachers, school counselors, or employers
- Write and finalize your college essay/personal statement
- Apply for Early Admissions (Oct. 1- Nov. 15th)

November/December

- Finalize and submit applications
- Send high school transcripts and SAT/ACT test scores (if applicable) to colleges to which you are applying

APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS!

SPRING
2022



February-April

- Celebrate you college acceptances
- Compare financial aid packages
- Avoid senioritis, focus on your high school classes

May/June

- National College Decision Day - May 1
- Send final high school transcripts to the school you will be attending
- GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL!**



Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

Required by all colleges, universities and technical programs. Visit www.fafsa.gov

- Apply starting **October 1st, 2021**. The financial aid process is first come, first served!
- Information needed: social security number if applicable, taxes/earnings from 2020, investments, checking & savings amount, etc.
- You must have your FSA ID and password created for student and parent in order to complete FAFSA
- Use IRS Data Retrieval Tool to link taxes if possible!

FSA ID

Self-selected username and password that both students and parents must create.

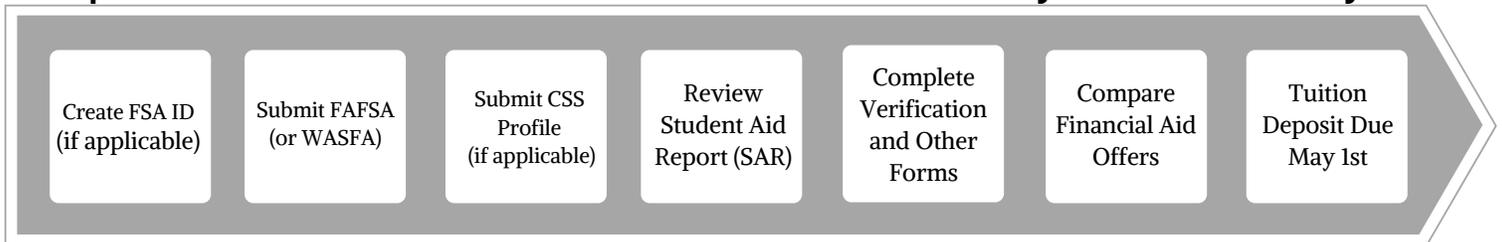
- The FSA ID will need to be created before you can sign and submit your FAFSA

Visit www.studentaid.gov to create.

WASFA (Washington Application for State Financial Aid)

The WASFA is for people who don't file a federal FAFSA application. State financial aid is for undocumented students (student does not have a social security #) and other select applicants. Opens October 1st, 2021! Visit www.wsac.wa.gov/wasfa for more information and application.

September >> October–November >> December–February >> March–May



Grants and Scholarships = FREE Money!

Loans = Borrowed Money

Work Study = Earned Money



*Adapted from uAspire Financial Aid Timeline

Financial Aid Tracker

1. Create FSA ID at studentaid.gov for both student AND parent

What you need:

- Personal email (**not school email**)
- Date of birth
- Social Security Number

2. Complete FAFSA at fafsa.gov

What you need:

- Permanent Resident Card (if applicable)
- 2020 tax returns (IRS 1040)
- Records of untaxed income
- Information on cash; savings/checkings accounts, investments, etc.



student Tracker

Username:

Password:

Email Used:

Phone Number Used:

Security Questions Answers:

1.

2.

3.

4.

FAFSA 4 Digit PIN (Save Key):

parent Tracker

Username:

Password:

Email Used:

Phone Number Used:

Security Questions Answers:

1.

2.

3.

4.

FAFSA 4 Digit PIN (Save Key):

College Entrance Exams

Record Your Scores

SAT:

ACT:

achieve
more
SAT

ACT[®]

- August 28, 2021
- October 2, 2021
- November 6, 2021
- December 4, 2021
- March 12, 2022
- May 7, 2022
- June 4, 2022
- September 11, 2021
- October 23, 2021
- December 11, 2021
- February 12, 2022
- April 2, 2022
- June 11, 2022
- July 16, 2022

● What is the SAT/ACT and why is it important?

The SAT/ACT is a standardized entrance exam used by some colleges and universities to make admissions decisions. The purpose of the test is to measure a student's readiness for college. Students' test scores may also be used in qualifying for certain scholarships.

A couple of things to consider when deciding if you will take either test:

1. Students' test scores can be used as a graduation pathway.
2. Check if the school you are applying to is test-optional.
3. **GEAR UP will pay for 1 SAT or ACT test per year** if you don't already qualify for a fee waiver!

● SAT Information

Website: collegeboard.org

- 3 hours long (+50 minutes with optional essay)
- Highest score possible = 1600--> 800 math, 800 reading/writing
- Sections: math (with and without calculator), reading and writing
- SAT Prep: www.khanacademy.org/SAT



● ACT Information

Website: act.org

- 2 hours 55 min long (+30 minutes with optional essay)
- Highest score = 36. --> 36 per section that is then averaged for composite score
- Sections: English, math, reading, and science
- ACT Prep: t.ly/x2iB (Free test prep on the ACT website)



College Essay Writing

Tips to Writing a College Essay

- ☆ **Read sample essays!** Get a feel for what they should look like.
- ☆ **Read the question!** Some essay prompts have multiple parts. Make note of them and make sure you answer all parts.
- ☆ **Brainstorm!** Think about topics that are important to you and what you like to talk about.
- ☆ **Write using your OWN voice!** Colleges want to get to know who you are, so write about something you care about and show off your awesome personality.
- ☆ **Reflect/Show -don't tell!** Don't just tell a story, but also reflect upon that story and share what you have learned from that experience.
- ☆ **Be emotional!** Don't be afraid of opening up and being vulnerable or showing how difficult situations have made you grow as a person.
- ☆ **Write a great opening line!** Grab your reader's attention in the opening line to make your essay stand out from others. Make your reader want to read more.
- ☆ **Start writing!** Give yourself plenty of time to write and rewrite. Put pen to paper and make adjustments in the editing process. Have different people look over your essay to make sure it is free of errors.



Common App Essay Prompts

COLLEGE APPLICATION TRACKER

- Reach School
- Target School 🎯
- Safety School

College Application	Login Information	Date Submitted	Transcript Sent?
Columbia Basin College	Username: Password:		

Check in with your GEAR UP staff to see if you qualify for a fee waiver on your college applications.

Scholarships

Attending a college or technical school after high school can be costly. In addition to completing your FAFSA or WASFA, you will want to apply to as many scholarships as possible. A scholarship is money awarded to students based on academic or other achievements to help pay for educational expenses. Typically you do not have to pay back the money.

College Bound Scholarship

A commitment of state financial aid to eligible students and is a four-year scholarship. You would have applied in middle school by the end of your 8th-grade year. It covers the average cost of tuition, some college fees, and a small book allowance.



College Bound
Repledge Booklet

Requirements:

- Graduate with at least a 2.0*
- Have no felony convictions
- Be income-eligible, as determined by your FAFSA or WASFA
- Get accepted to and go to a College Bound eligible institution within one year of graduating high school

SCHOLARSHIP WEBSITES

- thewashboard.org
- fastweb.com
- unigo.com
- studentscholarships.org
- bigfuture.org/scholarships
- Kennewick High School Career Center:
kennewick.ksd.org/School/Departments/Career-Center
- Foundation Scholarships at community colleges
 - Columbia Basin College: t.ly/vdoU
 - Walla Walla Community College: bit.ly/3CfsMnx
 - Big Bend Community College: t.ly/DEnj
 - Yakima Valley College: bit.ly/3Ceuk7V
- Washington State Opportunity Scholarship
 - waopportunityscholarship.org/students



Award Package Comparisons



Scan QR code for a digital version!

Use this worksheet to compare the costs of various schools using your financial aid award letters. While cost alone shouldn't determine which college you choose, this worksheet will help you compare financial aid packages.

What is your Expected Family Contribution (EFC)? \$ _____

This number is found in your Student Aid Report and is calculated using your FAFSA or DREAM ACT

	School 1:	School 2:	School 3:
COST OF ATTENDANCE (COA) - This is an <u>estimated</u> cost to attend your college.			
1. Tuition & Fees	+	+	+
2. Room & Board	+	+	+
3. Books & Supplies	+	+	+
4. Personal Expenses (Transportation, etc.)	+	+	+
5. Miscellaneous Expenses (Healthcare, etc.)	+	+	+
6. TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE (Add Lines 1-5)	=	=	=
GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS - This is the money you <u>do not</u> have to repay.			
7. Federal Pell Grant	+	+	+
8. State Grants & Scholarships	+	+	+
9. College Grants & Scholarships 1	+	+	+
10. College Grants & Scholarships 2	+	+	+
11. College Grants & Scholarships 3	+	+	+
12. Outside Scholarships	+	+	+
13. TOTAL GRANTS & SCHOLARSHIPS (Add Lines 7-12)	=	=	=
14. FINANCIAL NEED AFTER GRANTS/SCHOLARSHIPS COA (Line 6) - Total Grants & Scholarships (Line 13)	=	=	=
OPTIONS TO MEET REMAINING FINANCIAL NEED - This is the money you <u>do</u> have to repay except for workstudy. **Use the white boxes to show what aid you were offered, and then check the yellow box if you intend to accept that aid to meet your remaining financial need.			
15. Federal Direct Loan - Subsidized	+	<input type="checkbox"/>	+
16. Federal Direct Loan - Unsubsidized	+	<input type="checkbox"/>	+
17. Federal Perkins Loan	+	<input type="checkbox"/>	+
18. Federal Plus Loan	+	<input type="checkbox"/>	+
19. Alternative Loan	+	<input type="checkbox"/>	+
20. Workstudy	+	<input type="checkbox"/>	+
21. TOTAL AID TO ACCEPT (*Add 15-20 with checked boxes only)	=	=	=

RESUME BUILDER

When you apply for jobs or internships, you will need to provide a resume. It may seem that you don't have much to put into your resume but there are plenty of things that you can include. While in high school, you can highlight your educational achievements, experiences, extra-curricular activities, and volunteer work.

WHAT TO INCLUDE:

Emphasize your teamwork and leadership skills

Describe volunteer and work experience

Include a statement of selected interests at the end of your resume



RESUME TEMPLATE YOU CAN
EDIT ON GOOGLE DOCS



12 FREE HIGH SCHOOL
STUDENT RESUME TEMPLATES



REFERENCES

- Teachers
- Counselors
- Advisors
- Mentors
- Supervisors from a job
- Co-Worker



GREAT RESUME WORDS

Assisted	Distinguished	Maintained	Reorganized
Able	Encouraged	Managed	Represented
Acted	Earned	Maximized	Secured
Analysis	Enhance	Mediated	Selected
Achievement	Evaluate	Motivated	Specified
Accomplished	Examined	Observed	Standardized
Advanced	Facilitate	Obtained	Strengthened
Conducted	Formulated	Operated	Structured
Consulted	Fulfilled	Organized	Suggested
Committed	Generated	Oversaw	Supervised
Conducted	Gained	Participated	Taught
Coordinated	Gathered	Performed	Tested
Delegated	Gave	Planned	Trained
Developed	Headed	Prepared	Unified
Delivered	Identified	Presented	Upgraded
Designed	Implemented	Provided	Utilized
Defined	Improved	Pursued	Validated
Diversified	Influenced	Ranked	Valued
Devoted	Launched	Received	Wrote

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) serves students from the Class of 2022 and Class of 2023. GEAR UP helps students prepare and succeed in high school, higher education, and their future.

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