



THE WOODLANDS  
CHRISTIAN  
ACADEMY

## COLLEGE ADVISING CHECKLIST GRADES 8-12

*In the competitive arena of college admissions, it is imperative Woodlands Christian students are fully prepared for the rigors of the college application process and the demands of university-level academic expectations. Given this reality, we seek to equip students with information and tools to find success not only while at TWCA, but also beyond graduation furthering God's Kingdom in all their endeavors.*

### 8<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- Begin SARA™ Ray Dass PSAT/SAT/ACT Test Prep weekly.
- All 8<sup>th</sup> grade students are required to take the PSAT to become familiar with this all too important college entrance exam's format and style.
- 8<sup>th</sup> grade students and parents are given opportunities to discuss important course selections for high school classes in the spring semester with the Academic and College Advising Department. (See *The Four-Year Academic Plan Worksheet* at <https://www.twca.net/academics/college-advisory>.)

### 9<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- Find an organization/planner system that works best for you. *Check school email daily.*
- Research different clubs and organizations on/off campus that are of interest to you and join.
- Continue SARA™ Ray Dass PSAT/SAT/ACT Test Prep weekly.
- Stay focused and keep grades up. Take advantage of tutorials and Success Time as needed.
- Take the PSAT Exam in Mid-October. *Results available mid-December.*
- Visit with college and university representatives when on campus.
- Begin to research colleges and universities through visiting different campuses *if possible.*
- Research and apply for leadership and academic summer experiences, camps, and internships.
- Begin crafting a resume with honors, awards, and activities. *Sample résumé available on website.*
- Reassess Four-Year Academic Plan with Academic & College Advising Department as needed.

### 10<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- Continue SARA™ Ray Dass PSAT/SAT/ACT Test Prep weekly.
- Stay focused and keep grades up. Take advantage of tutorials and Success Time as needed.
- Take the PSAT Exam in Mid-October. *This exam determines entry into Ray Dass Merit Program.*
- Continue to visit with college and university representatives when on campus.
- Continue researching colleges and universities through visiting different campuses *when possible.*
- Research and apply for leadership and academic summer experiences, camps, and internships.
- Continue crafting a resume with honors, awards, and activities.
- Reassess Four-Year Academic Plan with Academic & College Advising Department as needed. *If desired, discuss direction for upper level advanced courses based on interests.*



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11<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- Continue SARA™ Ray Dass PSAT/SAT/ACT Test Prep weekly. *Complete the advanced levels.*
- Take occupational assessment (at school) in the fall and attend associated workshop.
- Use the results from the occupational assessment results to research colleges, majors, and careers.
- Stay focused and keep grades up. Take advantage of tutorials and Success Time as needed.
- Take the PSAT Exam in Mid-October. *Great practice for the REAL SAT/ACT to be taken soon after.*
- If Algebra II already complete, register for a fall SAT or ACT exam. *Multiple attempts encouraged.*
- If currently in Algebra II, register for the first spring SAT or ACT exam. *Multiple attempts encouraged.*
- Continue to visit with college and university representatives when on campus.
- Continue researching colleges and universities through visiting different campuses.
- Research and apply for leadership and academic summer experiences, camps, and internships.
- Finalize resume with honors, awards, and activities.
- Begin requesting letters of recommendation from faculty/staff/coaches/employers.
- Attend National College Fair with class and Rising Senior “Lunch & Learn”. *Learn Naviance steps.*
- Finalize Four-Year Academic Plan with Academic & College Advising Department if needed. *If desired, discuss direction for senior year advanced courses based on major field of interest for college applications.*

12<sup>th</sup> Grade:

- *Summer Months: Continue visiting colleges and universities of interest.*
- *Summer Months: Attend TWCA College Essay Writing Workshop.*
- *Summer Months: Edit and polish college admissions essays.*
- *Summer Months: Continue taking SAT or ACT to boost scores, if needed.*
- July 1<sup>st</sup> – Apply Texas application website opens. Begin/complete applications for Texas schools.
- August 1<sup>st</sup> – Common Application website opens. Begin/complete applications for Common App schools.
- August 1<sup>st</sup> – Most colleges and universities who do not take Common App or Apply Texas also open the application process on this date as well. Do your research on each school before applying. *Remember to check application deadlines for early decision, early action, and regular admission.*
- August 1<sup>st</sup> – October 1<sup>st</sup> – Complete at least FIVE college applications by 10/01. *This is the minimum requirement for all Woodlands Christian students.*
- Formally request letters of recommendation and transcripts through Naviance.
- Distribute your senior “brag sheet” to teachers/advisors who are writing your letters of recommendation.
- Send official SAT and/or ACT scores to the colleges to which you will apply. (SAT.org and ACT.org)
- October 1<sup>st</sup> – FAFSA Financial Aid Application opens. *If you need any financial aid or would like to be eligible for many school-specific scholarships, you must complete a FAFSA form. Contact individual colleges and universities for more details.* <https://fafsa.ed.gov/>
- Keep your grades up. *Many colleges and universities request a mid-year transcript, and all will require your list of senior level courses to see if you are maintaining rigor and focus throughout your senior year.*
- May 1<sup>st</sup> – National College Decision Day – *Schools will require a decision and deposit by this date if not before. Check individual college and university requirements.*
- GRADUATE!