

# College Planning 12<sup>th</sup> Grade

Gibson Ek High School

## Counseling Department

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These are the steps to take as a 12<sup>th</sup> grader to make sure you're on the right track for college. This list will help you navigate the college application process.

### Milestones

- ✓ Finalize your list of colleges and categorize them into Dream - Fit - Safety schools.
- ✓ Complete the FAFSA in October of 12<sup>th</sup> grade.
- ✓ Apply to College!
- ✓ Apply for scholarships.
- ✓ Complete college enrollment paperwork!

## Senior Year Timeline

### Fall

Revise your Learning Plan and specify in your vision where you want your life to go after high school. It's time to start thinking about specifics and defining the direction you want to go. Set goals that you can work on in your 12<sup>th</sup> grade year to help you get there.

- Finalize your college list of Dream, Fit, and Safety colleges.
- Determine your college deadlines and how you will submit your applications (Common App, Coalition, SendEDU, paper, etc).
- Determine how many letters of recommendations you need, who you will ask, and make requests 3 weeks in advance of your first deadline.
- Write your college essay and short answer questions for applications. Be sure to get peer and teacher reviews before finalizing your drafts.
- Familiarize yourself with ALL application requirements of the schools you are applying to.
- Attend Gibson Ek Offerings for completing college applications and FAFSA.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid in Oct. (This should be done whether students plan to go to a 4 year or 2 year college).
- Keep records of EVERYTHING you have submitted. Take screen shots of online submission confirmations, when using USPS be sure to use certified mail.

## Fall continued

- Attend college and career fairs.
  - Visual and Performing Arts College Fair: Oct 2<sup>nd</sup> 6:30pm - 8:30 pm Fisher Pavilion, Seattle Center: [GOTOMYPVAFAIR.COM](http://GOTOMYPVAFAIR.COM)
  - National College Fair: Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> 9am - 12 pm & Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> 12pm - 4 pm Washington Convention Center: [GOTOMYNCF.COM](http://GOTOMYNCF.COM)

## Winter

- Start researching and applying for scholarships.
- Know if any of your schools require a mid-year report and work with GE counselors to submit.

## Spring

- Wait for decisions from colleges and universities - early decision applicants tend to hear back from schools in December and regular decision applicants tend to hear back from schools in March.
- Complete application for local 2 year community and technical colleges.
- Visit colleges that you have been accepted to (if you haven't visited them already).
- Make final decision on future plans after Gibson Ek.
- May 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline to commit to a 4 year college or university and send in your deposit!
- Tour College Campuses. If possible, take advantage of vacation or other family travel time to visit colleges and see what they're like.

## Resources

The Common Application [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org) More than 800 colleges use Common App  
Coalition Application [www.mycoalition.org](http://www.mycoalition.org) Used by more than 140 colleges, including UW  
SendEDU [www.sendedu.org](http://www.sendedu.org) Free and secure electronic document transfer for college admissions

FAFSA [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) Free Application for Federal Student Aid

Check out a College [www.sbctc.edu](http://www.sbctc.edu) Washington State Community and Technical Colleges

Apprenticeship Program Tool [www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship/Programs/](http://www.lni.wa.gov/TradesLicensing/Apprenticeship/Programs/)  
Washington State Department of Labor & Industries

SAT Dates & Registration windows [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org) College Board ACT

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