



12th Grade Checklist

Fall

College Planning

- ☐ Attend college information events in your community (www.collegenights.org)
- ☐ Check college websites for applications, deadlines, financial aid and housing information
- ☐ Ask your counselor to evaluate your transcript for high school graduation and college eligibility
- ☐ Register to take or retake college entrance exams
 - ☐ Several colleges are test optional—check www.fairtest.org/test-optional-list for the most comprehensive list
 - ☐ SAT (www.collegeboard.org)
 - ☐ ACT, with optional writing section (www.act.org)
- ☐ Keep your test scores, resume and transcript organized to help in completing college applications
- ☐ Ask teachers or counselors for letters of recommendation
- ☐ Finalize portfolios, audition materials or writing samples if required as part of the application
- ☐ Get feedback from a college advisor, teacher or parent/guardian and complete revisions of all applications and essays
- ☐ Begin to submit college applications

Financial Aid

- ☐ Review the financial aid application process and timeline required by the colleges on your list
- ☐ File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) (<https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>)
 - ☐ Information from the 2024 tax year will be used by the class of 2026 when applying for financial aid for the 2026-2027 academic year
- ☐ Attend financial aid workshops in your community for help completing the FAFSA
- ☐ Be aware that private colleges may require additional financial information from the CSS Profile (<https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org>)
- ☐ Check your state financial aid websites for more information about in-state financial aid opportunities for undocumented, DREAMer and DACA students (www.ecmc.org/students/resource-guides.html)
- ☐ Search and apply for scholarships (www.fastweb.com, <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org>)
- ☐ Review your FAFSA Submission Summary once the FAFSA has been processed and make any needed corrections
- ☐ Males: Plan to register for Selective Service when you turn the age of 18; federal law requires nearly all male U.S. citizens and male immigrants, ages 18-25, to register with Selective Service; some states require registration before distributing state-based financial aid (www.sss.gov)

Winter

College Application Follow-Up

- ☐ Check your email frequently for additional information colleges might request within their timeline
- ☐ Send your mid-year transcript to colleges that request them
- ☐ Continue scholarship searches over winter break and continue to submit applications

Spring

Academics

- ☐ Keep up your grades—college admissions are conditional and can be rescinded if you do not continue academic excellence
- ☐ Check with the colleges where you have applied before considering dropping a 12th grade year class; colleges expect you to complete all of the high school courses you listed as "in progress" on your admissions application
- ☐ Take your Advanced Placement (AP) and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) exams

College Decision

- ☐ Check your email or college admissions portal for admission decision notification
- ☐ Visit campuses that most interest you
- ☐ Carefully review your financial aid offer for each college where you have been accepted and compare offers; contact financial aid offices to answer questions or update them on any changes to your family's financial situation
- ☐ Finalize your financial aid; accept your financial aid offer or work with the college's financial aid office to adjust it
- ☐ If you'll be attending a four-year college, notify and place a deposit at the college of your choice by National College Decision Day (May 1)

College Admissions Follow-Up

- ☐ Sign into your college portal and review your task list and deadlines
- ☐ Check your email for correspondence and deadline reminders
- ☐ Request your final transcript be sent to your college choice from your high school registrar before the deadline
- ☐ Request AP and IB scores be submitted to your college choice
- ☐ Ask about college placement tests—some colleges require them for certain subjects, such as English and math; make sure to register in time and study beforehand
- ☐ Sign up for summer and/or fall orientation; some are mandatory and some have a cost
- ☐ Figure out housing—if living on campus, complete any roommate survey forms, sign the housing contract and submit a housing deposit to make sure you have a reserved room



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