

College Advising Checklist | Grades 8–12

The Academic & College Advising Department partners with students and families throughout high school to help students discover their strengths, explore college and career options, and successfully navigate the college admissions process.

8TH GRADE Build a Strong Foundation

- ☐ Participate in the school's PSAT and college readiness program.
- ☐ Begin developing strong study, organization, and time-management skills.
- ☐ Explore extracurricular activities and areas of interest.
- ☐ Meet with an Academic & College Advisor to discuss high school course selection and graduation requirements.

9TH GRADE Get Involved

- ☐ Focus on strong academic performance.
- ☐ Become involved in activities, athletics, leadership opportunities, and service.
- ☐ Attend college representative visits hosted on campus.
- ☐ Begin tracking honors, awards, activities, and volunteer service on a resume.
- ☐ Participate in the PSAT and college readiness program.
- ☐ Meet with an Academic & College Advisor to review your four-year academic plan.

10TH GRADE Explore Possibilities

- ☐ Continue building academic skills and involvement outside the classroom.
- ☐ Research colleges, majors, and potential career pathways.
- ☐ Attend college representative visits and college fairs.
- ☐ Visit college campuses when possible.
- ☐ Pursue meaningful summer opportunities, camps, internships, or leadership experiences.

- ☐ Continue building and updating your resume.
- ☐ Participate in the PSAT and college readiness program.

11TH GRADE **Prepare for the College Search**

- ☐ Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October.
- ☐ Begin SAT and/or ACT testing.
- ☐ Attend college fairs, admissions events, and campus visits.
- ☐ Research colleges and build a balanced college list.
- ☐ Pursue leadership opportunities and meaningful summer experiences.
- ☐ Finalize your resume and complete your Brag Sheet.
- ☐ Request letters of recommendation according to school procedures.
- ☐ Meet regularly with your Academic & College Advisor.

12TH GRADE **Apply with Confidence**

SUMMER BEFORE SENIOR YEAR

- ☐ Visit colleges of interest.
- ☐ Attend the College Application & Essay Workshop.
- ☐ Draft and revise college application essays.
- ☐ Finalize your college list.

SENIOR YEAR

- ☐ Submit college applications by school deadlines.
- ☐ Request transcripts and recommendation letters.
- ☐ Complete the FAFSA and CSS Profile (if required).
- ☐ Monitor application portals and respond promptly to requests from colleges.
- ☐ Compare admission and financial aid offers.
- ☐ Maintain strong academic performance throughout senior year.
- ☐ Celebrate your college decision and prepare for graduation!

Questions? Contact your Academic & College Advisor.