



11th Grade Checklist

Fall–Winter

College Planning

- ☐ Meet with your counselor about your coursework and college plans
- ☐ Check college websites for admission requirements
- ☐ Create a professional email address to use when applying for scholarships, registering for college entrance exams and completing college applications
- ☐ Meet with college admissions recruiters when they visit your high school
- ☐ Attend college information events in your community (www.collegenights.org)

College Search

- ☐ Tour local campuses and visit non-local colleges during winter and spring breaks
- ☐ Try online college fairs and virtual campus tours (<https://campustours.com>, www.appily.com/virtual-college-tours, www.thecollegetour.com)
- ☐ Use college search sites to explore your college options (<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>)
- ☐ Prepare your college list (refer to worksheet on page 5)

Career Exploration

- ☐ Attend a local career fair
- ☐ Research career options and their education requirements, median pay and projected growth rates (www.bls.gov/ooh)
- ☐ Make a list of careers that may interest you and research the education level required for each profession
- ☐ Talk with professionals in careers you are curious about and ask about their work
- ☐ Enhance skills that would be useful in a career of interest through your extracurricular activities

Spring

College Entrance Exams

- ☐ Register and take your college entrance exams—check first with your high school to see if they administer them on-site
 - ☐ Several colleges are test optional—check <https://fairtest.org/test-optional-list> for the most comprehensive list
 - ☐ SAT (www.collegeboard.org); free SAT test prep help (www.khanacademy.org/digital-sat)
 - ☐ ACT, with optional writing section (www.act.org); free ACT test prep help (www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation/free-act-test-prep.html)

Academics

- ☐ Prepare for Advanced Placement (AP) and International Baccalaureate (IB) exams
- ☐ Plan your 12th grade year schedule with your counselor
- ☐ Review your college preparation coursework and GPA with a college advisor
- ☐ Create a list of teachers, coaches and other mentors who will be able to write personalized letters of recommendation

Summer Preparation

- ☐ Apply for summer jobs or internships
- ☐ Seek volunteer opportunities in your field of interest
- ☐ Register for community college courses and earn college credit while in high school, also referred to as dual/concurrent enrollment
- ☐ If you took the SAT or ACT, review your test scores to determine if retesting is necessary
- ☐ Plan a test preparation schedule if you plan to retake college entrance exams

Summer

College Application Preparation

- ☐ Check websites of colleges on your list; review admissions application process and timeline
- ☐ Draft your application essays and/or personal statement; work with a college advisor for feedback
- ☐ Prepare a scholarship resume and/or a “brag sheet” that includes all your non-academic activities and honors
- ☐ Communicate with college admission representatives for questions you may have

College Finances

- ☐ Register for an FSA ID, which will be required to complete the FAFSA online in the fall; your parent(s) must also register for an FSA ID (<https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch>)
- ☐ Search and apply for scholarships; see page 21 for a list of recommended scholarship search sites
- ☐ Use the Federal Student Aid Estimator to see how financial aid can help pay for your education (<https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator>)
- ☐ Learn how money works; take a financial literacy course (www.fdic.gov/resources/consumers/money-smart/index.html)
- ☐ Use the College Scorecard to compare costs, degree programs and outcomes for the colleges you are interested in (<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov>)
- ☐ Save money for college