

Senior Checklist

September

- Password Log:** Passwords will also begin to add up as you are working on college applications, scholarships, FAFSA, and other tools. It is a good idea to keep your passwords stored in a secure location that you can access when needed. Recovering lost passwords can be a frustrating long process. Be proactive!
- Create a list of the colleges you want to apply to:** At this time you should have your top 5 colleges narrowed down. These are the schools you will want to apply to. Start researching when their applications are due. Come and check-in with Mrs. Lockrem if you need help deciding on schools.
- Create a master spreadsheet with** college application deadlines and start adding scholarship deadlines as well. Visually seeing a timeline and deadlines in one location will help organize everything you have going on.
- Apply for a FAFSA FSA ID:** (you and your parents need this to complete the FAFSA) <https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm> Keep these ID's in a safe place- you will need them each time you complete the FAFSA.

Additional things to think about:

- Sign-up to retake the ACT if not satisfied with score:** Make sure you are sending your scores to schools that you are seriously considering. Start studying for your ACT as soon as you sign up! If you have already signed up to take the ACT this fall, list when and where you will be taking it.

October

- College Applications.** Complete 4-5 college applications.
- Letter of Recommendation:** Utilizing the Senior Information Sheet and the Letter of Recommendation request form found in the Guidance Office, fill out the sheet provided clearly and accurately so you can give it to teachers, coaches, counselors, and supervisors. Then ask teachers/coaches/counselors/advisors to write a recommendation letter for you. Some colleges may and most scholarship applications will require a letter of recommendation.

Additional things to think about:

- Attend a college visit:** Whether or not you know for sure where you want to attend next year, it is recommended to attend a college visit once more or for the first time to make sure it's the right "fit" for you.
- Talk to your counselor.** Make sure your high school transcripts, credits, and records are correct and up to date and you are on track to graduate. Also, review your college plans and financial aid preparations with your counselor.

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November

- Create a Resume / Activity Resume:** Update your resume! You might need to send a copy to colleges and this will be helpful to start tracking your accomplishments.
- Scholarships.** Apply for scholarships. Check the Spectrum website for a list of scholarships available as well as the websites for your schools of interest. Check with your counselors on additional scholarships. **Scholarship hint: sometimes employers (yours or your parents) offer scholarships- check with them to see if there are any available.
- Fill out your FAFSA:** www.fafsa.ed.gov (the earlier you fill it out the more grants and work study opportunities you will receive)
- Attend Spectrum's College Goal Night.** Check the announcements for more information.

December

- Finish up college applications.** ALL applications should be turned in by the end of December! Follow up with the colleges applied to and ensure all materials were received.
- Continue working on scholarship applications.**
- Net Price Calculator:** Use the net price calculator to compare costs of your top schools. If you go to the school website and search for Net Price Calculator, it should give you a link on each website.
- College Scholarships:** Review scholarships available through college most interested in. Most scholarships are due in January.

January

- Apply to scholarships at the college you plan on attending:** Review your college website for any and all available scholarships.
- Completing FAFSA:** If the FAFSA isn't completed, encourage parents/guardians to complete it.
- Major and Minor:** Discuss with your counselor what would be good classes to take and come up with options for different classes. Look at course requirements for your school and program (if you know) and figure out how to prioritize and maximize your class choices.

February

- Local scholarships:** Stop into the Guidance Office at your high school to ask about the application.
- Class options:** Start reviewing class options for fall semester at your top college.
- Transfer credits:**

March

- Send your deposit:** In order to secure a spot at your chosen college(s), make sure you send your deposit on time.
- Update Resume:** your resume with all of your new activities, awards, and experiences from senior year.

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- Career Interview:** Now is a good time to interview someone who works in a position that you might be interested in working at some day! Find someone related to your career interest and passion.

April

- Accuplacer:** If attending a 2-year school, sign-up to take the Accuplacer. Talk with your counselor about how/where to sign up.
- Financial Aid Award Letter:** Review grants, scholarships, work-study, and loan options with your advisor.
- Campus Housing:** Make sure your housing information and meal plan is sent in by the end of April if you plan to live on campus.
- Finish up all your scholarship applications.**
- Placement testing.** Is there a placement test for math, English, or a foreign language you need to take? Can you take this at orientation?

May

- Decide on a college:** May 1st is Decision Day. Once you know the college you will be attending call the admissions office and notify them. Let the other colleges you were accepted to know you are not planning on attending. Call or email the schools you are not planning on attending. Send in your deposit for the college you are attending.
- Final Visit (if needed):** Make one final visit to the school of choice and visit the admissions office to discuss transfer of credits (PSEO, CIS, AP) and the financial aid office to ensure your FAFSA has been processed.
- Register for summer orientation.** Select an early time in the summer in case you register for classes (better class selection).
- CELEBRATE!!!! You did it!!!!**

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Summer:

- Continue applying for scholarships
- Enrollment deposit (if not already paid)
- Submit housing application and deposit
- Change banking information to a bank close to or on campus
- Meal plan choice
- Parking permit (if bringing a vehicle)
- Work study options (if qualify) or look and apply for on or off-campus jobs
- Attend new student orientation
- Register for your first semester of college classes.
- College placement testing
- Activate student e-services account through college and have login and password information
- Activate student email and have login and password information
- Final high school transcript to be sent to your college using Parchment
- Send college transcript (CIS or PSEO)
- Check payment deadlines and make sure payments are met and FAFSA is finished
- Immunization records sent to college. You can find a form on the college website that will need

to be filled out.

- Textbook purchased – check out different resources available for renting and purchasing
- Contact your roommate. Work together so you don't bring double the amount of stuff.
- Check D2L or online resources where college class info is available for syllabus information

before classes begin. Sometimes professors have homework for the first day!

- Start getting prepared for fall college courses to begin!

Late Summer Wrap-Up:

Check online resources where college class info is available for syllabus information before classes begin. Sometimes professors have homework for the first day!

- Move-in (recruit your parents, neighbors, friends, boyfriends/girlfriends to help move)

Make sure your account information works (school email, college platform, e-services, etc.) If you are having trouble, contact admissions for help.

If you haven't bought books, now is the time! Buy or rent your textbooks- remember to check multiple places to find the best price!

- Walk your schedule so you know where all your classes are and do not get lost the first day.

Make a copy of your schedule/map and have it with you in case you do get lost on the first day.