

FHS 11th Grade College Prep Checklist

August

- School begins; check your schedule and make sure you are in the right classes to meet graduation requirements. You can make an appointment with your counselor to check credits, investigate credit recovery options, and ask questions.
- Review and narrow down your list of colleges (maximum 6).
- Check out college, career, and scholarship resources (counseling office, library, career center, Internet, pamphlets, books, magazines, interest inventories)
- Clarify your educational goals and preferences.
- Have you taken a language yet? Many colleges require two years of a language.
- Begin or update your college portfolio: Create a checklist of test requirements (some colleges require SAT II/Subject Tests in addition to SAT or ACT), test registration deadlines and college application deadlines. **Plan on taking the ACT and/or SAT this spring.**
- Contact college admissions offices to request catalogs, applications, admission guidelines, scholarship and financial aid info, and housing info (if you plan to live on campus). Remember: multiple applications for each of these topics will be required.
- **Keep copies** of all applications and correspondence.
- Visit with college representatives when they come to your school, and attend all college and career presentations at school and in your community. Watch for fliers, listen for announcements, and check the FACE Advisor website regularly to look for upcoming events and scholarship deadlines.
- Apply for the free or reduced lunch program, if you haven't already; it's easy to apply and your family may qualify based on financial need. See your school office for the form. Even if you don't eat lunch in the cafeteria, being enrolled in this program will qualify you for ACT/SAT test waivers, as well as reduced tuition in summer school, if needed.

September

- Check **PSAT** dates and register for the exam this fall. See your guidance counselor if you need a fee waiver.
- Study for the ACT/SAT and keep it up all year. No waiting till just before the test(s) in Spring!
- How are you doing with your participation in extracurricular activities? Are you challenging yourself to move into leadership positions in your activities?
- Write or update your resume. Write a sample college essay and ask people (teachers, Counselors, FACE Advisor, family, and friends) for feedback.
- Create a list of people from whom you will request college and scholarship recommendations.
- Continue saving money for college. You'll be glad you did!

October

- Take the PSAT.
- Attend college and career fairs.
- Update your Next Step sheet with mid-semester grades and credits; make sure you are on track. Plan credit recovery with your guidance counselor, if needed.
- Start visiting campuses, in person or on virtual Internet tours, if offered.
- Generate/update your list of colleges.

November

- Review this guide again to make sure you are on track.
- Review your essay and resume and gather all personal data you will need for the application process. Keep your college portfolio updated and organized.
- Check ACT/SAT registration deadlines and fees for spring tests. Planning ahead will help you prepare and avoid late fees.
- Review credits for graduation and make sure you're on track.
- Continue attending college and career fairs. Create a list of questions to ask college representatives when you talk with them.

December

- Be sure to check how you are doing in any classes you've been absent from or tardy to several times.
- See your counselor to check your spring schedule and make sure you're enrolled in the classes you need. Make sure to challenge yourself!
- Continue attending college and career fairs.
- How are you doing in your extracurricular activities?

January

- Check schedule to make sure you are in the right classes and that you are not repeating any classes you've already received credit for! Help your counselor help you!
- Check your transcript with your counselor, now that final semester grades are in.
- Update your Next Step sheet.
- Take practice ACT and/or SAT.
- If you haven't already, fill out the paperwork to see if you qualify for the free or reduced lunch program. Even if you don't eat lunch in the cafeteria, being enrolled in this program qualifies you for reduced summer school tuition, free waivers for the ACT and SAT, and a waiver on some college application fees.

February

- If you haven't already, register and study for the ACT and/or SAT this spring, and SAT II/Subject Tests, if required by the colleges of your choice.
- Register for next year's classes; be sure you are in the right classes to meet graduation requirements and make sure to challenge yourself.

- Prospective college athletes: register with the NCAA Clearinghouse (www.ncaaclearinghouse.net); talk with your coach and counselor about your plans.
- Plan for any AP exams you will be taking in May. See your counselor/school AP coordinator for details and payment information.
- Continue exploring college choices and visit campuses, in person or online.
- Visit with college reps and attend all presentations and college fairs offered.

March

- Register for next year's classes; be sure you are in the right classes to meet graduation requirements and make sure to challenge yourself.
- Look at and familiarize yourself with scholarship opportunities.
- Take the Standards Based Assessment (SBA). All juniors must take this exam.
- Register for any AP exams you will be taking in May.
- Take the ASVAB when offered at your school; the career inventory is helpful for all students, not just those interested in the military.
- **Make sure you are registered and studying for the ACT/SAT (and SAT II/ Subject Tests, if required by the colleges of your choice)!**
- Visit with college reps when they come to your school.
- Continue working hard in your classes and attend every day.
- Submit applications for military academies and ROTC scholarships.
- Check your credits and update audit sheet when mid-semester grades come in. Meet with your guidance counselor for credit recovery, if needed.

April

- Continue to visit campuses and schedule any out-of-town college visits for the summer; it is important to get a feel for the schools you are considering and summer tours/interviews should to be scheduled in advance.
- Keep up your grades.
- Take the **ACT/SAT**.
- Continue meeting with college reps and attending presentations.
- Narrow down your list of colleges (4-6 maximum).

May

- Take the **SAT**.
- Take your **AP exams**.
- Create/update your resume.
- Visit with college reps.
- Check your transcript with your guidance counselor before the end of school. Be sure to check if you've lost credit in any classes. Make sure you register for summer school, if needed. See your guidance counselor to determine whether you qualify for reduced summer school tuition based on financial need. (If you are signed up for the free or reduced lunch program, you qualify for reduced summer school tuition rates.)

June

- **Last chance to take the ACT/SAT your junior year.**
- **Take SAT II (Subject) tests, if required by the colleges of your choice.**

Summer

- Get a summer job (paid or volunteer/community service) that relates to your career interests.
- Visit the top colleges you are interested in. Summer is a busy time for college visits, so make sure you have called ahead to plan a tour, meeting with an admissions rep, and an interview if recommended or required.
- Review your college portfolio and make sure you have all the information you need from each prospective college. Request any remaining information and applications, and make sure you have a system set up to keep track of upcoming due dates. Review and compose a rough draft of your college essay(s).

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