

College Countdown Checklist

Fall of Freshman Year:

Talk with your Guidance Counselor about how to get the most out of your high school career. Get involved with extracurricular activities such as sports. Begin to work towards your community service requirements.

Spring of Freshman Year:

Meet with your Guidance Counselor to map out your schedule for the rest of high school.

Fall of Sophomore Year:

Begin taking standardized tests such as the PLAN (a preliminary version of the ACT) and the PSAT (a preliminary version of the SAT). Continue to work towards your community service requirements. Visit a college fair and start thinking about your college options.

Spring of Sophomore Year:

Meet with your Guidance Counselor and talk about your goals and college plans. Register for the ACT or SAT. Review your long-term course schedule to be sure you are meeting all college entrance requirements. Look into Advanced Placement or Dual Enrollment courses to earn college credit beginning in your Junior year.

Summer before Junior Year:

Add to your resume and your savings account with a part-time job. Work towards your community service requirements.

Fall of Junior Year:

Take the SAT and/or the ACT for the first time, see how you do! Start a file for mail from colleges that interest you.

Winter of Junior Year:

Register for the Spring ACT and/or SAT. Decide on which schools you would like your scores sent. Attend another college fair and begin to narrow down your choices. Make plans to visit colleges for a weekend.

Spring of Junior Year:

Take the ACT and/or SAT again; see if your scores increase! When you receive your scores, meet with your Guidance Counselor to see which schools and scholarships you may qualify for. Double check your schedule for Senior year to be sure you are meeting all requirements. Look into pre-college programs for the summer; you can use these to earn college credit and get an inside look at life on campus!

Summer before Senior Year:

Get information from your top ten schools. Look for specific information on Financial Aid that will help make your decision. Put together a list of courses taken, awards received, both in and out of school, and extracurricular activities; this list will help you fill out applications. Begin the application process at 3-5 colleges.

Fall of Senior Year:

Narrow your list of college choices to no more than five and finish the application process at each of these schools. Ask selected adults to fill out any recommendation forms required by your chosen schools. Write drafts of your application essays. If you are unhappy with your earlier scores, retake the ACT and/or SAT. Apply for scholarships that you are eligible to receive. Schedule a longer visit at your top two or three schools. Finish your community service requirements

Winter of Senior Year:

Finish any remaining applications. Fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as soon after January 1st as possible. Continue to apply for scholarships. Apply for the Florida Bright Futures scholarship.

Spring of Senior Year:

Receive acceptance letters from colleges. Contact schools you have decided not to attend and inform them of your intentions.

GRADUATE!