

Things to Do Before Senior Year to Prepare for College Applications

Here are some items to check off your list before you start senior year:

<input type="checkbox"/>	Determine a desired major, as nearly all colleges will ask you why you have selected a particular major in the school's supplemental essays.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Start creating a tentative list of colleges that you want to attend.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Get information about those colleges by doing online research, attending college fairs and college nights (virtual or in-person), and speaking with representatives from colleges who come to your school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make sure to keep your resume current throughout your senior year.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Find out about college scholarships and how to apply for them.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Explore financial aid options.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Schedule tours and information sessions with your preferred colleges and arrange to visit these schools.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Start writing your college application essays and showing them to your teachers for feedback.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Request two letters of recommendation from your junior year teachers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Many schools also appreciate additional letters submitted through the Common App from coaches, academic advisors, mentors, and/or employers.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make sure that you have already taken the SAT or ACT or that your schools are test-optional and you've decided to apply as a test-optional applicant.

College Checklist for Fall of Senior Year

<input type="checkbox"/>	Narrow down and finalize your college list by using all of the information you've gathered from your research, college visits, and interviews. Evaluate whether it makes sense to apply Early Decision or Early Action to your top choice school. In particular, applying Early Decision can significantly improve your chances of admission.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make sure to maintain good grades and stay actively involved in extracurricular activities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Strongly consider taking the SAT or ACT again to try to improve your scores.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Create a calendar that tracks the application deadlines for college admission, scholarship applications, and financial aid.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Start writing the final draft of your Common App Activities section and have a traditional resume, which many colleges also request.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Search for appropriate scholarship opportunities.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) form and the College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile, preferably by the beginning of October (your parents will need to do this).
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make sure you complete the application forms for the colleges that interest you, preferably before winter break to leave enough time before the deadlines to gather materials and double-check each application.
<input type="checkbox"/>	After submitting your college applications, use the individual college portals to make sure the schools have received all of the materials you've submitted, including application forms, test scores, high school transcripts and letters of recommendation.

College To Do List for Winter of Senior Year

□	Remember to keep working hard to get good grades.
□	Check in on the status of your college applications and find out if the colleges need any other information, using each college's application portal.
□	It may be a good idea for you to take the SAT or ACT again if you can still submit a new, higher test score to colleges (if you are not applying as test-optional).
□	Complete any remaining college applications as necessary.
□	Discuss the costs of attending your preferred colleges with your family.
□	Continue looking for scholarships during the holiday break.
□	Consider getting a part-time job to save money and gain some professional experience.

College Application Checklist for Spring of Senior Year

<input type="checkbox"/>	Continue saving money for college if you're working part-time.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make sure you're getting good grades and preparing for your final exams, AP tests, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Regularly check your inbox in March or April to see if there are notifications from colleges.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Meet with your parents to talk about college finances and financial aid options and choose the right financial aid packages, preferably debt-free ones.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Now is the fun part! Choose a college if you're accepted to more than one college, and let all of the colleges know your decision by May 1st.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Write a letter to the college's admissions team to strengthen your case if you're waitlisted for college admission.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Complete all of the enrollment paperwork for your chosen college, including housing arrangements and orientation session forms.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Start doing research on private student loans from banks or credit unions in case your applications for scholarship and financial aid are rejected.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Even though you are nearing the end of your high school career, do your best on your final exams!
<input type="checkbox"/>	Send your final transcript to your chosen college to maintain admission status.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Congratulations on receiving your official high school diploma! You did it!

College Checklist for Summer After Senior Year

<input type="checkbox"/>	Continue working and saving money to pay for your future college expenses.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Look out for college admission notifications if they haven't arrived yet.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Keep applying for scholarships as deadlines can go all the way to August.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Continue researching student loans if necessary, and start narrowing down your options.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Begin shopping for things you'll need in college, such as books, supplies, dorm essentials, tech products, and clothes.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Make sure you attend the freshman orientation at your college to get to know the campus and your fellow students before school begins.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Move into your student accommodation and meet your new roommate.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your course options and schedule your classes with your college advisor.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Get ready for a new life in college and this unforgettable chapter in your life!