



## *Senior Year: The Goodbye Year*

### Senior Year Checklists

#### Checklist for Students:

##### Summer Before Senior Year

- Narrow down your list of potential colleges. If possible, visit the schools that really interest you.
- Contact colleges to request information and applications for admission. Be sure to ask about financial aid, admission requirements, and deadlines.
- Decide whether you are going to apply under a particular college's early decision program. Be sure to learn about the program specific deadlines and requirements.
- Apply for scholarships. Your goal should be to minimize the amount of loan funds you borrow, so you have less to pay back later.
- Learn about the FSA ID, and create yours, at [StudentAid.gov](http://StudentAid.gov). Create a username and password called an FSA ID that you'll use to confirm your identity when accessing your government financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents. ***You and your parent will each need your own unique FSA ID.***

##### Fall Semester

- Continue to take challenging courses in preparation for college.
- **No Slacking Off** – this is a very important semester! Work and study hard! Be sure to get homework and assignments in on time. Continue to get the best grades possible. Do your best to not be absent!!
- Continue to stay involved!! Be involved in school organizations, clubs, and extracurricular activities.
- Continue making a list of your community service, paid work, honors, awards, and extracurricular activities. This will be used on your college resume and for scholarships.
- Use the career search and interest inventory tools at [mynextmove.org](http://mynextmove.org) and [educationplanner.org](http://educationplanner.org) to research and explore career options and majors that align with your interests.
- Visit colleges, college fairs, and college presentations, if you have not already done so.
- Register for and take the SAT, SAT Subject Tests or ACT for college admissions. If you want a better score, retest. Check with the colleges that you are interested in to see what tests they require.
- Prior to college application deadlines, ask your counselor and teachers to submit the required documents (i.e., transcript, letters of recommendations) to the colleges to which you are applying; be sure to allow plenty of time for letters to be written and transcripts to be prepared.
- Visit [collegeforalltexas.com](http://collegeforalltexas.com) to find resources about getting the facts, making your college plans, and applying for college.
- **APPLY FOR COLLEGE!!** Fill-out and submit your college applications to all of the schools on your list. These applications are your chance to tell your personal story – keep in mind that telling your personal story takes time, effort, and attention to detail. **Be aware of deadlines!** Colleges have different deadlines, so be aware and do not wait until the last minute. Typically, early applicants need to get their applications in by November 1<sup>st</sup>, while regular decision applicants need their applications in by January 1<sup>st</sup>.

- **Texas Colleges & Universities** – Go to [applytexas.org](http://applytexas.org) to fill-out your college application. This application can be used at any public institution in Texas, as well as, many community and private colleges in the State. Through Apply Texas, you can also apply for scholarships from participating universities, and search for and view information about deadlines and fees (both general and university specific).
- **OCTOBER 1<sup>st</sup>** – As soon as possible, complete and submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov), along with any other financial aid applications your chosen school may require. You should submit your FAFSA by the **earliest financial aid deadline** of the school to which you are applying.
- After you submit the FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within three days to three weeks. The SAR lists your answers to the questions on your FAFSA and gives you some basic information about your aid eligibility. Promptly make any necessary corrections and submit them to the FAFSA processor.
- If you are planning on playing sports in college, submit your ACT and SAT scores to the [NCAA Eligibility Center](http://NCAA.org).
- Use the free scholarship search tool at [StudentAid.gov](http://StudentAid.gov) to find scholarships for which you might want to apply. Don't Wait!!
- Continually check with Counselor for scholarship opportunities.

### Spring Semester

- Visit colleges that you have been accepted to.
- Review your college acceptances and compare the colleges' financial aid offers. Use the "Compare Financial Aid Offers" tool at [ConsumerFinance.gov](http://ConsumerFinance.gov) to analyze your aid offers side by side.
- Contact a school's financial aid office if you have questions about the aid that school has offered you. It is a good idea to get to know your financial aid staff early – they can tell you about deadlines, important paperwork you might need to submit, and other aid for which you might wish to apply.
- When you decide on which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit.
- If you are going to play college sports, request your final amateurism certification beginning **APRIL 1 (Fall Enrollees)** or **OCTOBER 1 (Spring Enrollees)** in your NCAA Eligibility Center account at [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org). After you graduate, ask your counselor to send or upload your final official transcript with proof of graduation to the NCAA Eligibility Center. Only students on an NCAA Division I or II School's certification request list will receive a certification.
- Continue to look for and apply for scholarships at the school you have chosen and with your counselor.

### Checklist for Parents:

#### Summer Before Senior Year

- Create your **OWN FSA ID** if you don't have one yet. Review your financial situation and make sure your child is looking into or has already applied for scholarships.
- Find out whether your child has added any schools to their college wish list since you last visited colleges. Make additional visits, if possible.

#### During the Year

- Work with your child on filling out the [FAFSA](http://FAFSA.gov).
- Be involved in your child's education! Sign-up for Parent Portal to check grades and attendance. Be aware of your child's study habits. Contact teachers and counselors when you have any concerns.
- Follow WISD, WHS, and other WHS groups on social media sites to stay informed. Check the District and School website for current information. Sign-up for Remind101 and School Messenger, as well.
- Encourage your child to take challenging classes, get involved at school, and participate in community service.
- Take your child to visit college campuses; the best visits are generally when classes are in session.
- Learn about student and parent loans in the Federal Student Loans: Basics for Students and Federal Student Loans: Direct PLUS Loan Basics for Parents brochures at [StudentAid.gov](http://StudentAid.gov).