

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- ❑ Review your class schedule.
Ensure you meet all of the necessary college requirements. Continue taking rigorous classes and keep your grades up.
- ❑ Create a master calendar.
Keep a calendar of dates such as test dates and registration dates, college application deadlines, financial aid deadlines, scholarship and grant deadlines, and any other important dates
- ❑ Attend college events and visit college campuses.
By now, you should narrow your list of colleges to between three and five. Visit the colleges that interest you and try to sit in on a class and talk to current students.
- ❑ Stay involved in your activities.
Continue pursuing leadership roles and consider projects or challenges you want to take on to make you stand out as an applicant. Continue to update your brag sheet with your activities and leadership roles.
- ❑ Start your college applications early.
Get started early, especially if you are applying early decision.
- ❑ Edit/proof your college essay.
Ask a teacher, parent, counselor or a college advisor to review your college essays and provide feedback and edits.
- ❑ Take the SAT or ACT.
Take the exams in fall/early winter. Don't forget to ask for your scores to be sent to the colleges to which you are applying. Find out if there are any additional tests you need to take by checking the colleges' websites.
- ❑ Research CLEP and/or AP exams.
These tests give you the opportunity to earn college credit by exam. Make sure to check with your target schools first to see which test scores they will accept for college credit.
- ❑ Secure recommendation letters.
Ask people who are familiar with you to write letters of recommendation. Make sure to give them plenty of advance notice in order to meet the college application deadlines.
- ❑ Pay attention to deadlines.
Be sure to submit college applications by the required deadline and keep copies of all your application materials.
- ❑ Check your application status.
Check the status after you submit your application to ensure the college received all of your materials on time.
- ❑ Take the THEA or Accuplacer, if necessary.
Find out whether you need to sign up for one of these tests to satisfy the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) and register if necessary.
- ❑ Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA.)
Complete and submit your FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1 (as soon as your parents' tax information has been submitted to the IRS. The sooner you submit, the better your chances of receiving aid.
- ❑ Talk to a financial aid counselor.
Review and compare financial aid award letters. Learn how to use your college savings and scholarships to reduce your college loan amounts.
- ❑ Mail your final grades/official transcript.