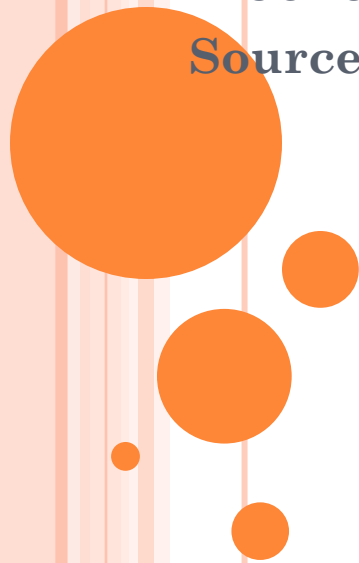


# PREPARING FOR COLLEGE

**A College Preparation Checklist**

**Source: Department of Education**



# PRE-HIGH SCHOOL

- **FAFSA4caster**

- [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov)

- Federal Student Aid

- **Save**

- Search for college funds

- Create a college fund account

- **Do your best**

- Get help from a teacher, tutor or mentor

- Don't give up

- **Community/School Involvement**

- Explore interest through extracurricular activities

- **Get Career Information**

- Ask employers what kind of education is needed for the career field

# HIGH SCHOOL

## ○ Every Year

- Update information on FAFSA4caster
- Continue to save for college
- Follow the school's college pathway
- Visit: [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/funding](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/funding)
- Stay involved in school/community activities
- Meet with your guidance counselor regularly



## 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- Follow the school's college pathway
- Start planning for college and thinking of careers
- Register with MyFSA at [www.FederalStudentAid.edu.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.edu.gov) to research careers and college options



# 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- Continue to follow the school's college pathway
- Meet with your guidance counselor to discuss colleges and their admission requirements
- Take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT)
- Take the pre-ACT

*Remember to register for all test in advance. See your guidance counselor for registration.*



# 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- All Year:
- Continue to follow the school's college pathway
- Research colleges that interest you
- Go to college fairs and presentations
- Investigate financial aid, including scholarships
- Scholarship information:  
[www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov)



# 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## ○ Fall:

- Take the preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAS/NMSQT)
- You must take the test in the 11<sup>th</sup> grade to qualify for scholarships and programs



# 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- Spring
  - Register and take exams for college admission
  - Many colleges accept the SAT I and/or SAT II
  - Some colleges accept the ACT
  - Check with colleges for exams they accept



# SUMMER BEFORE 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

- Narrow down the list of colleges
- Schedule college visits
- Contact colleges to request information and applications for admissions
- Ask about financial aid, admission requirements and deadlines
- Inquire about college's early decision or early action program
- Update information in FAFSA4caster one last time
- Compare FAFSA4caster results to actual cost of colleges
- Apply for scholarships to minimize loan funds



# 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE YEAR

## ○ All Year:

- Continue to follow the school's college pathway
- Work hard all year; second semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility
- Stay involved and seek leadership roles in your activities



# 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## ○ Fall:

- Meet with your guidance counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admissions requirements
- If haven't done: Register and take SAT I, SAT II or ACT for college admission
- Apply to the colleges you have chosen
- Before college application deadlines, ask your guidance counselor to submit transcripts and letters of recommendations to the colleges you are applying
- Get letters of recommendations from your teachers
- Apply for federal student aid: get a pin at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov) and complete application online and follow the instructions
- One of your parents must also apply for a pin at [www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)



# 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## ○ Winter:

- Parents need to complete income tax forms early or if not completed you can provide estimated information on your federal student aid application (Remember to provide updates later)
- As soon after Jan 1 complete the online Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- Questions or assistance for federal student aid programs: 1-800-433-3243
- After you submit the FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within three days to three weeks
- Complete scholarship applications



# 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

## ○ Spring:

- Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll
- Review your college acceptance and complete financial aid package
- Contact a school's financial aid office if you have questions about the aid they offered you
- When you decide on the college you want to attend, notify that college of your commitment and submit all required documents

