Senior Year
Fall Checklist

College-Bound?

If you are college-bound, here is a list of some things to accomplish this fall:

- ❑ Research potential colleges and majors (and know where you fall within the admissions criteria / requirements)
- ❑ Create a list of potential college choices
- ❑ Schedule **SAT / ACT testing** dates if looking to take the test again (register at www.sat.org/register and www.actstudent.org approximately two months ahead of time)
- ❑ Create a **www.parchment.com** account (this is the site you will use to send transcripts to colleges)
- ❑ Fill out the **Student Information Sheet** from the Counseling Department.
- ❑ Consider who you might ask to write recommendations for you and hand them your completed Student Information Sheet when asking for a recommendation
- ❑ Start working on your **Common App** essay prompts
- ❑ Visit colleges
- ❑ Discuss college costs and budget with parent/guardian
- ❑ If you plan to play collegiate athletics, register with the NCAA (www.eligibilitycenter.org) or NAIA Clearinghouse (www.playnaia.org)
- ❑ Complete and send in college applications by November 1
- ❑ Visit with college representatives for prospective schools when they visit Hamilton in the fall
- ❑ Visit the **Holland Area College Night** from 6:00-7:30pm on September 19 at Hope College's DeVos Fieldhouse.
- ❑ **FAFSA opens October 1st**, but you can start working on it earlier at https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa . (Financial Aid Application)

Career-Bound?

If you are considering entering right into a career or apprenticeship program, here are some things to accomplish this fall:

- ❑ Research potential careers through **career inventory websites** including www.mitalent.org, www.onetonline.org, www.roadtripnation.com, and www.mynextmove.org
- ❑ Research **military options** at www.military.com and consider signing up for the ASVAB test (through military.com) to determine which pathway suits you best
- ❑ Explore information on **skilled trade occupations** in Michigan at: http://www.michigan.gove/documents/wda/CTE_Conference_Presentation_485567_7.pdf
- ❑ Put together a resume.
- ❑ Create a **www.parchment.com** account (this is the site you will use to send transcripts to colleges or trade schools)
- ❑ Fill out the **Student Information Sheet** from the Counseling Department.
- ❑ Consider who you might ask to write recommendations for you and hand them your completed Student Information Sheet when asking for a recommendation letter.

Discovering My Future

Below are resources or inventories that will help you in discovering what the best route is for your future after high school. Postsecondary planning is crucial throughout your high school career in order to be successful, and this is a great place to start.

Personality Type

https://www.truity.com/view/tests/personality-type

Interest Inventories

www.roadtripnation.com

https://www.mynextmove.org/ ***

College Exploration

https://www.mycollegeoptions.com

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org ***

www.princetonreview.com

www.naviance.com

https://www.truity.com/view/tests/personality-career

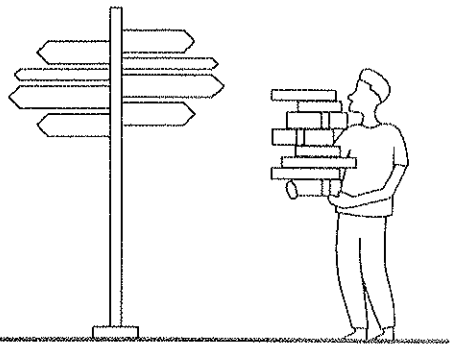
***En Español

https://www.miproximopaso.org/

https://padres.collegeboard.org/

common app
READY

Gather Your Materials



Use this checklist to help you gather the information you'll need as you fill out your Common App.

- [ ] **High school information**
  You'll need to know things like your high school's CEEB code, GPA scale, and class rank reporting. Check in with your counselor for more details about this information. Ask them for the High School Details Information Sheet! (Download it at **commonapp.org/ready**)

- [ ] **An unofficial copy of your high school transcript**
  You'll be asked to list the courses you're taking this academic year.

  Some colleges ask applicants to self report their full academic record in the Courses & Grades section. If you have a college on your list that requires Courses & Grades, you'll need your transcript to complete this section.

- [ ] **A copy of your test scores and dates**
  You have the option to enter scores for standardized exams like the ACT and SAT that you have taken and/or plan to take. Don't forget, you'll still need to send official score reports to colleges that require them.

- [ ] **Citizenship information**
  Social Security Number, if you intend to apply for financial aid via FAFSA (For U.S. citizens, U.S. nationals, U.S. dual citizens, U.S. permanent residents, U.S. refugees, and U.S. asylees).

  For Permanent Residents: A copy of your green card.

  For non-U.S. citizens: U.S. visa type, number, and date issued. If you do not yet have a U.S. visa but intend to apply for one, you can indicate that in the application.

- [ ] **State of residence information**
  If you think you qualify for in-state tuition for a school you might be asked to share more information about your residence in that state.

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Parent information

You'll be asked to share some basic information about one or more parents, including your parent's occupation and job title, and the education level they received. If your parent attended college, you'll need to know the name and location of the college they attended, as well as what degree they received and when.

Parent information

- Occupation
- Job title
- Education level
- Name of college(s) attended
- College location
- Degree earned
- Year degree earned

A list of academic honors

You can include up to 5 academic honors you received during high school. You'll need to include the honor's title, when you received it, and the level of recognition you received (regional or national, for example).

A list of your activities

You have the option to enter up to 10 activities you participated in during high school. These activities might include family responsibilities, jobs, volunteer work, clubs, sports, hobbies, and more.

For each activity you'll list: the years of participation, hours per week and weeks per year spent on the activity, position/leadership held, and a brief description.

Use this space to jot down a few activities you want to report in your application.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

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College Application Detail Sheet

Use the information below to help you complete the Education section of the Common App or for use on similar sections of other applications.

High School Information

Address:	Hamilton High School 4911 136th Ave Hamilton, MI 49419
Phone:	(269) 751-5185
CEEB / School Code:	231832
Class of 2020 Graduation Date:	5/21/2020
Counselor Information:	**Mrs. Holly Goodman** (Last names A-G) High School Counselor hgoodman@hamiltonschools.us (269) 751-5185, ext. 2100 **Mrs. Lauren Robinson** (Last names H-Q) High School Counselor lrobinso@hamiltonschools.us (269) 751-5185, ext. 2011 **Mrs. Dawn Safford** (Last names R-Z) High School Counselor dsafford@hamiltonschools.us (269) 751-5185, ext. 2013
Principal Information:	**Mr. Benjamin Bandfield** High School Principal bbandfie@hamiltonschools.us (269) 751-5185, ext. 2008

Grades and Current Courses

Please note that you will need to get most of this information from www.parchment.com (transcript) or from PowerSchool in order for it to be up-to-date. You will probably need to download a copy of your current schedule from PowerSchool as well as send yourself a transcript through www.parchment.com .

****You do not get your transcript through the Counseling Department.****

Graduating Class Size (approx.):	178 students	GPA Scale Reporting:	5.0
Class Rank Reporting:	exact	GPA Weighting:	weighted

Transcripts

In order to get a transcript sent to a college or university, you must request your transcript through **www.parchment.com** . Please create a Parchment account, log in, and then follow instructions (help section or directions given by counselor) in order to have your transcript sent to specific places. If necessary, you can also send a transcript to yourself for personal record or other reasons.

Counselor / Teacher Recommendations

Student Information Sheets should be completed and handed to any person filling out a recommendation form or letter. The **Student Information Sheet** can be found on the Counseling Department website or picked up directly from the Counseling Department.

Quick Start Guide

Download the Parchment Guide to Ordering Transcripts for FAQs and full details on registering, ordering, and more.

CREATE A PARCHMENT ACCOUNT AND ORDER YOUR TRANSCRIPT

* You must do this to send transcripts to schools or employers!

CREATE A PARCHMENT ACCOUNT

Go to Parchment.com and search for the school you attend(ed). This is the school where you will be requesting your transcript from, not the school (or other destination) that you want to send your transcript to. You will then fill in all the fields on that page to get your account set up.

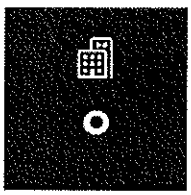
*If you want access to your transcript after graduation, you must use an email address not associated with Hamilton Schools. You will not have access to your Hamilton Schools email after you graduate.

What school did you attend?

If you received an email from your school with a link in it, or a handout with a registration code, follow the instructions in the email or handout to register.

ORDER YOUR TRANSCRIPT

1. Sign in.
2. Click **Order**.
3. You will see two destination options. If you are sending your transcript to a school, select the option on the left. If you are sending it to yourself or to another individual, select the option on the right:



An Academic Organization, Admissions Office, Business, or Other Organization.

OR

Yourself or Another Individual

If you select the option on the left, you will be presented with a search box where you will search for the destination. If the destination that you are sending your transcript to does not appear, click **Enter Your Own** to manually enter the destination.

Enter Your Own

4. Continue filling in the fields to place your order. Information on the next page tells you more about the options that you will see here.
5. On the **Provide Consent** page you (or your parent/guardian) authorizes Parchment to release your transcript from your school once we receive the transcript. You can sign with your mouse or finger.
6. Finally, you will make a payment if you are asked to (we accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover, and American Express).

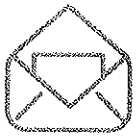
IMPORTANT THINGS TO NOTE

Remember that your school has your transcript. If you track your order and see **Order submitted to school** as your order status, please contact your school if you are concerned about a delay in processing your order.*

ELECTRONIC AND PAPER TRANSCRIPTS

Sending and receiving electronic transcripts is fast, easy, and secure, but we know that there may be times when you need to send paper transcripts. Since some schools in the Parchment network may only want to receive electronic transcripts, you may not be presented with a choice of delivery methods.

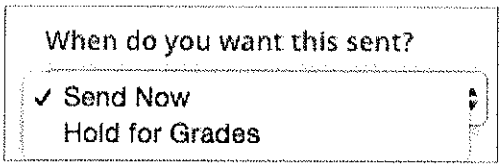
For electronic transcripts, the recipient will either receive an email with a link in it to access your transcript, or, if the recipient is a school that is part of our Parchment network, the electronic transcript will land in their Parchment account.



For paper transcripts, you have the option to send your transcript by USPS mail or overnight delivery. We use FedEx for overnight delivery. FedEx does not deliver on Saturdays and Sundays. Remember that your school must approve and process your order before we can send your transcript, so if you select overnight delivery, your transcript may not be delivered the next day if there is a delay with your school processing your order.

SEND YOUR TRANSCRIPT NOW OR WAIT UNTIL YOUR NEXT GRADES ARE ON IT

During your order, you will be presented with a drop-down menu where you can select if you want to wait until your next grades are in before sending your transcript.



TRACK YOUR ODER

You will receive regular email updates, and you can always sign in to your account to track your order.

NEED MORE HELP?

Visit our Help Center if you need any help along the way. We have help topics and videos, and you can submit a support ticket to contact us.

* In some cases, Parchment administers transcripts (for example, if your school has closed). If this applies to you, please contact Parchment if you have questions about your order.

CollegeBoard

FOR STUDENTS AND FAMILY

What You Should Know About FAFSA:

The Free Application for Federal Student Aid

WHAT IS FEDERAL STUDENT AID?

Federal student aid comes from the federal government — specifically, the U.S. Department of Education. It's money that helps a student pay for higher education expenses (i.e., college, career school, or graduate school expenses). Federal student aid covers expenses such as tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, and transportation. There are three main categories of federal student aid: grants, work-study, and loans.

WHO GETS FEDERAL STUDENT AID?

Every student who meets certain eligibility requirements can get some type of federal student aid, regardless of age or family income. Some of the most basic eligibility requirements are that you must:

- ☐ demonstrate financial need (for most programs — to learn more, visit studentaid.gov/how-calculated);
- ☐ be a U.S. citizen or an eligible noncitizen;
- ☐ have a valid Social Security number;
- ☐ register (if you haven't already) with Selective Service if you're a male between the ages of 18 and 25;
- ☐ maintain satisfactory academic progress in college or career school; and
- ☐ show you're qualified to obtain a college or career school education by
  - having a high school diploma or a General Educational Development (GED) certificate or a state-recognized equivalent; or
  - completing a high school education in a homeschool setting approved under state law; or
  - enrolling in an eligible career pathways program.

Find more details about eligibility requirements at **studentaid.gov/eligibility**.

STEP 1

Create an FSA ID. Students, parents, and borrowers are required to use an FSA ID, made up of a username and password, to access U.S. Department of Education websites. Your FSA ID is used to confirm your identity and electronically sign your federal student aid documents. To create an FSA ID, visit studentaid.gov/fsaid.

STEP 2

Collect the documents needed to apply, including income tax returns and W-2 forms (and other records of income) A full list of what you need is at fafsa.gov.

STEP 3

Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at **fafsa.gov**. Beginning with the 2017-18 award year, the FAFSA is available from Oct. 1, 2016, to June 30, 2018. But you need to apply as soon as you can! Schools and states often use FAFSA information to award nonfederal aid, and their deadlines are usually earlier in the year. You can find state deadlines at fafsa.gov. Also check with the schools you're interested in for their deadlines.

STEP 4

If you are eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool (DRT), we strongly urge you to use the tool. It's the easiest way to provide your tax data and the best way of being sure that your FAFSA has accurate tax information. The IRS DRT lets students and parents get the IRS tax return information they need to complete the FAFSA, and to transfer the data directly into their FAFSA from the IRS website.

STEP 5

Review your Student Aid Report. After you apply, you'll receive a Student Aid Report, or SAR. Your SAR has the information reported on your FAFSA and usually includes your Expected Family Contribution (EFC). The EFC is a number (not a dollar amount) used to determine your eligibility for federal student aid. Review your SAR information to make sure it's correct. The school(s) you list on your FAFSA will get your SAR data electronically.

STEP 6

If you are selected for verification, your school's financial aid office will ask you to submit tax transcripts and other documents, as appropriate. Be sure to meet the school's deadline, or you will not be able to receive federal student aid. Whether you're selected for verification or not, make sure the financial aid office at the school has all the information they need to determine your eligibility.

STEP 7

Contact the financial aid office if you have any questions about the aid being offered. Review award packages from schools to compare amounts and types of aid being offered. Decide which school to attend based on a combination of (a) how well the school suits your needs and (b) its affordability after all aid is taken into account.

Note:

You also might be able to get financial aid from your state government, your school, or a private scholarship. Research nonfederal aid early (ideally, start in the spring of your junior year of high school). Be sure to meet all application deadlines!

Source: Department of Education

CollegeBoard

FOR FAMILIES

IRS Data Retrieval Tool (FAQs)

The implementation of an earlier Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) application opening Oct. 1, and using tax information that is two years old, brings with it many benefits for students and parents. Because most families have filed their taxes by the time the FAFSA application opens, more families can use the valuable IRS Data Retrieval Tool. The IRS Data Retrieval Tool lets students and parents transfer their IRS tax return information from the IRS website directly into their FAFSA.

Although it is not required, if you are eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool, we strongly urge you to use the tool for several reasons:

- ☐ It's the easiest way to provide your tax return information.
- ☐ It's the best way to make sure your FAFSA has accurate tax return information.
- ☐ It may mean you don't have to send more documents to your college.

AM I ELIGIBLE TO USE THE IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL?

Most students and parents are eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool if they have already filed their taxes. However, students and parents are ineligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool in the following cases:

- ☐ The student/parent is married, and either the student/parent or his/her spouse filed as Married Filing Separately.
- ☐ The student/parent is married, and either the student/parent or his/her spouse filed as Head of Household.
- ☐ The parents' marital status is "Unmarried and both parents living together."
- ☐ The student/parent filed a Form 1040X amended tax return. Remember, the Form 1040X is used to correct your original tax return.
- ☐ The student/parent filed a Puerto Rican or foreign tax return.

Any students or parents who meet these criteria will need to enter their tax return information manually.

HOW DOES THE IRS DATA RETRIEVAL TOOL WORK?

To use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool within the application on the student or parent finances pages:

1. If you indicated that you filed your taxes or have already used the IRS Data Retrieval Tool to transfer your tax return information into your application, click the "View option to link to the IRS" hyperlink. (Note: If you are eligible to use the IRS Data Retrieval Tool and have not previously used it to transfer your tax return information into your application, then the "View option to link to the IRS" hyperlink does not display; skip ahead to step 2.)
2. Enter your FSA ID and click Link To IRS. (Note: Students will not be asked to enter their FSA ID if they entered an FSA ID to begin their FAFSA.)
3. Your FAFSA will be saved, and you will be transferred to the IRS website.
4. On the IRS website, enter the requested information exactly as it appears on your tax return.
5. After the IRS has validated your identification, your IRS tax information will display. You can either transfer your information from the IRS, or choose to return to *FAFSA on the Web*.

If you transfer your IRS tax information, questions that are populated with that tax information will be marked with "Transferred from the IRS."

Note: The person whose tax information is being transferred should enter his or her FSA ID.

Source: Department of Education

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2019-2020 Common Application Essay Prompts

1. Some students have a background, identity, interest, or talent that is so meaningful they believe their application would be incomplete without it. If this sounds like you, then please share your story.
2. The lessons we take from obstacles we encounter can be fundamental to later success. Recount a time when you faced a challenge, setback, or failure. How did it affect you, and what did you learn from the experience?
3. Reflect on a time when you questioned or challenged a belief or idea. What prompted your thinking? What was the outcome?
4. Describe a problem you've solved or a problem you'd like to solve. It can be an intellectual challenge, a research query, an ethical dilemma - anything that is of personal importance, no matter the scale. Explain its significance to you and what steps you took or could be taken to identify a solution.
5. Discuss an accomplishment, event, or realization that sparked a period of personal growth and a new understanding of yourself or others.
6. Describe a topic, idea, or concept you find so engaging that it makes you lose all track of time. Why does it captivate you? What or who do you turn to when you want to learn more?
7. Share an essay on any topic of your choice. It can be one you've already written, one that responds to a different prompt, or one of your own design.

2019 - 2020 SAT

TEST DATE	REGULAR DEADLINE	LATE FEE DEADLINE	TEST LOCATION	TEST CENTER CODE
AUG 24	JULY 24	AUG 11	DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY - HOLLAND	23151
			PLAINWELL H.S.	23153
			SOUTH HAVEN H.S.	23605
			GRAND HAVEN H.S.	23369
OCT 5	SEPT 5	SEPT 23	DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY - HOLLAND	23151
			HAMILTON H.S.	**23343**
			OTSEGO H.S.	23554
			PLAINWELL H.S.	23153
NOV 2	OCT 2	OCT 20	DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY - HOLLAND	23151
			HOLLAND CHRISTIAN H.S.	23107
			PLAINWELL H.S.	23153
			SAUGATUCK H.S.	23355
DEC 7	NOV 7	NOV 25	DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY - HOLLAND	23151
			OTSEGO H.S.	23554
			PLAINWELL H.S.	23153
			SOUTH HAVEN H.S.	23605
MAR 14	FEB 13	FEB 24	DAVENPORT UNIVERSITY - HOLLAND	23151
			HOLLAND CHRISTIAN H.S.	23107
			PLAINWELL H.S.	23153
			SOUTH HAVEN H.S.	23605
MAY 2	APRIL 2	APRIL 20	DAVENPORT UNIV – HOLLAND	23151
			PLAINWELL H.S.	23153
			SOUTH HAVEN H.S.	23605
			WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY	23369
JUN 6	MAY 6	MAY 23	DAVENPORT UNIV – HOLLAND	23151
			SAUGATUCK H.S.	23355
			OTSEGO H.S.	23554
			PLAINWELL H.S.	23153

Register at **www.sat.org/register**

2019-2020 ACT DATES AND LOCATIONS

TEST DATE	REGULAR DEADLINE	LATE FEE DEADLINE	TEST LOCATION	TEST CENTER CODE
SEPT 14	AUG 16	SEPT 1	WEST OTTAWA H.S.	178110
			ZEELAND WEST H.S.	217370
			HOLLAND CHISTIAN H.S.	228800
			PLAINWELL H.S.	188830
OCT 26	SEPT 27	OCT 13	WEST OTTAWA H.S.	178110
			ZEELAND WEST H.S.	217370
			HOLLAND CHRISTIAN H.S.	228800
			PLAINWELL H.S.	188830
DEC 14	NOV 8	NOV 25	WEST OTTAWA H.S.	178110
			ZEELAND WEST H.S.	217370
			HOLLAND CHRISTIAN H.S.	228800
			PLAINWELL H.S.	188830
FEB 8	JAN 10	JAN 17	WEST OTTAWA H.S.	178110
			SAUGATUCK H.S.	187270
			HOLLAND CHRISTIAN H.S.	228800
			PLAINWELL H.S.	188830
APR 4	FEB 29	MAR 16	WEST OTTAWA H.S.	178110
			GRAND RAPIDS CHRISTIAN H.S.	167520
			GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIV.	020050
JUN 13	MAY 8	MAY 25	WEST OTTAWA H.S.	178110
			ZEELAND WEST H.S.	217370
			HOLLAND CHRISTIAN H.S.	228800
			PLAINWELL H.S.	188830
JUL 18	JUN 19	JUN 29	GRAND HAVEN H.S.	177820

Sign Up at www.actstudent.org

CollegeBoard Access

College Planning: 12th Grade

Want to know if you're on track in the college application process? This checklist shows you what you should be doing, and when.

When you complete steps marked with * you may be eligible for College Board Opportunity Scholarships. Learn more at: **cb.org/opportunity**.

FALL

- ☐ **Strengthen Your College List*:** Meet with a counselor about your college choices and, if you've not yet done so, download college applications and financial aid forms. Make sure you have a balanced list of academic safety, fit, and reach schools. Plan to visit as many of these colleges as possible.
- ☐ **Create a master list or calendar that includes:**
  - Tests you'll take and their fees, dates, and registration deadlines
  - College application due dates
  - Required financial aid application forms and their deadlines (aid applications may be due before college applications)
  - Other materials you'll need (recommendations, transcripts, etc.)
  - Your high school's application processing deadlines
- ☐ **Ask a counselor** to help you request a fee waiver if you can't afford application or test fees.
- ☐ **Improve Your Score*:** Many seniors retake the SAT in the fall. Additional coursework and practice with Official SAT Practice on Khan Academy® since your last test could help you boost your performance. Plus you already know what to expect on test day.
- ☐ **Be sure** to have your SAT scores sent to the colleges to which you are applying.
- ☐ **Complete the FAFSA*:** To apply for most financial aid, you'll need to complete the FAFSA. Oct. 1 is the first day you can file the FAFSA.
- ☐ **Complete the CSS Profile:** CSS Profile™ is an online application used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to determine eligibility for their aid dollars.
- ☐ **Prepare** early decision/early action or rolling admission applications as soon as possible. Nov. 1–15: Colleges may require test scores and applications between these dates for early decision admission.
- ☐ **Ask a counselor or teacher** for recommendations if you need them. Give each teacher or counselor an outline of your academic record and your extracurricular activities. For each recommendation, provide a stamped, addressed envelope and any college forms required.
- ☐ **Write first drafts** and ask teachers and others to read them if you're submitting essays. If you're applying for early decision, finish the essays for that application now.
- ☐ **Apply to College*:** Submit your applications to the schools that you want to attend.
- ☐ **Ask counselors** to send your transcripts to colleges. Give counselors the proper forms at least two weeks before the colleges require them.

WINTER

- ☐ **Keep photocopies** as you finish, and send your applications and essays.
- ☐ **Give the correct form** to your counselor if the college wants to see second-semester grades.
- ☐ **Have your high school send a transcript**—it is sent separately by mail to colleges if you apply online to colleges.

SPRING

- ☐ **Keep active in school.** If you are waitlisted, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between the time you applied and the time you learned of its decision.
- ☐ **Visit your final college before accepting.** You should receive acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. Notify your counselor of your choice. If you have questions about housing offers, talk to your counselor or call the college.
- ☐ **Inform every college** of your acceptance or rejection of the offer of admission and/or financial aid by May 1. Colleges cannot require your deposit or your commitment to attend before May 1. Talk to your counselor or adviser if you have questions.
- ☐ **Send your deposit** to one college only.
- ☐ **Take any AP® Exams.** Show what you've learned in your AP classes. A successful score could even earn you credit, advanced placement, or both in college.
- ☐ **Waitlisted by a college?** If you intend to enroll if you are accepted, tell the admission director your intent and ask how to strengthen your application. Need financial aid? Ask whether funds will be available if you're accepted.
- ☐ **Work with a counselor** to resolve any admission or financial aid problems.
- ☐ **Ask your high school** to send a final transcript to your college.
- ☐ **Review your financial aid awards:** Not all financial aid awards are the same, so it's important to choose the aid package that's best for you and your family. Be sure to note what you have to do to continue receiving financial aid from year to year, and how your aid might change in future years.

Visit **bigfuture.org** for more information.

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CollegeBoard Access

Family 12th Grade

Family Action Plan: 12th Grade

Senior year is a whirlwind of activity. It's a big year for your child—balancing schoolwork, extracurricular obligations, and the college application process. Use the suggestions below so you and your child can meet these challenges.

SUMMER

- ☐ **Visit colleges together.** If you haven't already, make plans to check out the campuses of colleges that interest your child. Use the **Campus Visit Checklist** to learn how to get the most out of these experiences.
- ☐ **Ask how you can help your senior finalize a college list.** You can help your 12th grader choose which colleges to apply to by weighing how well each college meets their needs. Learn **how to finalize a college list**.
- ☐ **Find out a college's actual cost.** Once your 12th grader has a list of a few colleges of interest, use the **Net Price Calculator** together to discover the potential for financial aid and the true out-of-pocket cost—or net price—of each college.
- ☐ **Encourage your child to get started on applications.** Together you can get the easy stuff out of the way by filling in as much required information on college applications as possible. Read about **how to get started on applications**.
- ☐ **Help your child decide about applying early.** If your senior is set on going to a certain college, they should think about whether applying early is a good option. Now is the time to decide because early applications are usually due in November. Read about the pros and cons of **applying early**.
- ☐ **Gather financial documents:** To apply for most financial aid, your child will need to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). You'll need your most recent tax returns and an FSA ID to complete the FAFSA, which opens October 1.
- ☐ **Encourage your child to opt in to the College Board Opportunity Scholarships.** Your child can earn scholarships ranging from $500 to $2,000 by completing individual college planning steps. When they complete all six steps, they'll be eligible for a $40,000 scholarship.

  Visit **cb.org/opportunity** to learn more.

FALL

- ☐ **Encourage your child to meet with the school counselor.** This year, your 12th grader will work with the counselor to complete and submit college applications. Learn more about **the counselor's role in applying to college**.
- ☐ **Create a calendar with your child.** This should include application deadlines and other important dates. Your child can find specific colleges' deadlines in **College Search**. Your child can save colleges in a list to get a custom online calendar that shows the deadlines of those colleges.
- ☐ **Get your child ready for college admission tests.** Many seniors retake college admission tests, such as the SAT®, in the fall. Learn more about helping your 12th grader **prepare for admission tests**.
- ☐ **Help your child find and apply for scholarships.** Your high school student can find out about scholarship opportunities from the school counselor and how to request and complete scholarship applications and submit them on time. Learn more about **scholarships**.

FALL (CONTINUED)

- ☐ **Offer to look over your senior's college applications.** But remember that this is your child's work, so remain in the role of adviser and proofreader. Respect your child's voice.
- ☐ **Complete the FAFSA.** The government and many colleges use the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) to award aid. Now it's easier than ever to fill out this form because you can automatically transfer your tax information online from the IRS to the FAFSA. Read **How to Complete the FAFSA** to learn more.
- ☐ **Complete the CSS Profile™, if required.** If your child needs to submit the CSS Profile to a college or scholarship program, be sure to find out the priority deadline and submit it by that date. Read **How to Complete the CSS Profile**.
- ☐ **Encourage your child to set up college interviews.** An interview is a great way for your child to learn more about a college and for a college to learn more about your child. Get an overview of the **interview process**.

WINTER

- ☐ **Work together to apply for financial aid.** Have your child contact the financial aid offices at the colleges of interest to find out what forms students must submit to apply for aid. Make sure your child applies for aid by or before any stated deadlines. Funds are limited, so the earlier you apply, the better.
- ☐ **Learn about college loan options together.** Borrowing money for college can be a smart choice—especially if your high school student gets a low-interest federal loan. Learn more about the **parent's role in borrowing money**.
- ☐ **Encourage your senior to take SAT Subject Tests™.** These tests can showcase your child's interests and achievements—and many colleges require or recommend that applicants take one or more Subject Test. Read more about **SAT Subject Tests**.
- ☐ **Encourage your child to take AP® Exams.** If your 12th grader takes AP or other advanced classes, have your child talk with teachers now about taking these tests in May. Read more about the **AP Program**.

SPRING

- ☐ **Help your child process college responses.** Once your 12th grader starts hearing from colleges about admission and financial aid, you need to help your child decide what to do. Read about **how to choose a college**.
- ☐ **Review financial aid offers together.** Your 12th grader will need your help to read through financial aid award letters and figure out which package works best. Be sure your child pays attention to and meets any deadlines for acceptance. Get more information on **financial aid awards**.
- ☐ **Help your child complete the paperwork to accept a college's offer of admittance.** These steps should be taken once your child has decided which college to attend: review the offer, accept that college's offer, mail a tuition deposit, and submit other required paperwork. Learn more about your high school senior's **next steps**.

Visit **bigfuture.org** for more information.

/MyBigFuture **@MyBigFuture** **@collegeboard**

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Student Information Sheet

Please fill out this sheet and **hand to your teacher or School Counselor when requesting a that they fill out a recommendation form or letter** for any college application or scholarship.

Name: _____

GPA: _____ SAT: _____ ACT: _____

Extra-Curricular Activities:

_____

_____

Offices Held:

_____

_____

Honors and Awards Received:

_____

_____

Community Service:

_____

_____

Work Experience:

_____

_____

Favorite Classes (and Reasons):

_____

_____

College Major / Career Choice:

_____

_____

AP / Dual Enrollment Classes:

_____

_____