

# SENIOR COLLEGE CHECKLIST BY SEMESTER

## FALL

- Narrow your list of colleges to between five to eight.** Meet with Mrs. McNeal about your college choices and, if you haven't done so yet, add colleges to your SCOIR and College Kickstart account. **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 (3 school weeks)
- Sign up for the ACT** (if you didn't take it as a junior, or if you aren't satisfied with your score, or if you've learned a lot since you first took it.)
- Review ACT test results and **retest if necessary**
- Take the SAT®** Many seniors retake the SAT in the fall. Additional course work 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 ACT/SAT scores sent to the colleges you're applying to if they require **official scores**.
- Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA):** To apply for most financial aid, you and your parents need to complete the FAFSA. Oct. 1 is the first day you can file the FAFSA.
- Complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE®:** PROFILE is an online application used by certain colleges and scholarship programs to determine eligibility for their aid dollars. Complete with your parents.
- Prepare early decision/early action or rolling admission applications** as soon as possible. Colleges may require test scores and applications between Oct. 15 and Dec. 1 for early decision admission.
- Schedule** your senior meeting.
- Ensure** your Senior Survey is completed prior to your student meeting
- 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.
- Notify your College Counselor** to send your school materials to colleges through SCOIR by moving colleges to the "applied column".
- Keep working** hard all year; second semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.
- Visit** with admissions counselors who come to your high school (visits are listed in SCOIR and on the College Counseling website)
- Attend** a college fair

- ❑ **Avoid** common college application mistakes (see handout on Trinity website, College Counseling page).
- ❑ **Research** and identify if you qualify for scholarships at each college you have applied to.

## 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.
- ❑ **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 the college admissions office to resolve any admission or financial aid problems.
- ❑ **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.
- ❑ **Watch** the mail for your **Student Aid Report (SAR)**—it should arrive four weeks after the FAFSA is filed.
- ❑ **Keep** track of and observe deadlines for sending in all required fees and paperwork.
- ❑ **Continue** to look for scholarship opportunities.
- ❑ **Keep** track of important financial aid and scholarship deadlines.
- ❑ **Sign** and send in a promissory note if you are borrowing money.
- ❑ **Notify** your college about any outside scholarships you received.