

College Planning Checklist : SENIOR YEAR!!

August

- Stay involved in extracurricular activities and seek leadership roles.
- Consider taking AP classes.
- Plan personal college tours/visits if possible.
- Create a binder to organize college and scholarship application materials
- Attend Planning for College Workshop (CommonApp / SCOIR) with the school counselor

September

- Take and submit Senior photos-
- Review** your transcript with your school counselor and make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements.
- Register for the SAT or ACT (check with your schools of interest to see what they require).
- Continue to make your college list on SCOIR
- Meet with college admissions representatives visiting CCHS
- Create a CommonApp account and link it to your SCOIR account.
- Prepare for applying for federal student aid- you and your parent need a [FSA ID](#) so that you can complete your application and access your information online. Make sure you put in the correct SSN and date of birth or it will be really hard to fix. Keep this information in a safe place- you will need it every year to sign your FAFSA.
- Update your resume of activities, awards, and community involvement.
- Order Cap, gown, etc. More information will be provided.

October

- Finalize your college list (It is good to aim for 2 reach schools, 2 safety schools, and 2 target schools).
- Prepare college applications (CommonApp) and write your essays. Ask your parents or your English teacher to proofread your essays. Mail your applications in as early as possible. Don't wait until the application deadline.
- As soon as possible after its Oct. 1 release, complete and submit your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®), at fafsa.gov, along with any other financial aid applications your chosen school(s) may require. You should submit your FAFSA® by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which you are applying, usually by early February. Refer to the [FAFSA: Applying for Aid](#) section of this site as you go through the application process. Please have your [FSA ID](#) done before the in-person workshop.
- Two teacher recommendation letters should be uploaded onto your SCOIR account - if not, email your teachers a reminder.
- Be on the lookout for announcements regarding registration for AP. You must register for each AP test you wish to take.

November

- Save the Date: in person help FAFSA Workshop at CCHS: November 7th, 5:00pm
- Plan any college interviews and finish applying to schools.

December

- Continue to hunt for scholarships.
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.scholarships.com
 - [College Board's Scholarship Search](#)
 - <https://studentaid.gov/>

- December 1st is the priority deadline for MANY colleges. Review your financial aid options. After you submit the FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within three days to three weeks. Quickly make any necessary corrections and submit them to the FAFSA processor.

January

- Continue to work hard, second semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.

February

- Final deadline for applications for freshman scholarships for many schools.
- Continue monitoring local scholarship opportunities. Many local scholarships become available during the second semester.

March

- Don't let Senioritis derail you. Focus on your grades and attendance. This last semester matters!

April

- Watch the mail for acceptance letters and financial aid award letters.

May

- As soon as possible after May 1st, notify the college of your choice of your decision to attend. Notify others who have also accepted you of your decision not to attend.
- Take AP exams.
- If you have been offered financial aid, accept the offer as instructed by your award letter. Remember that you will need to reapply for financial aid each year.
- Complete all financial aid requirements, including student and parent loan applications.
- Ask the school you plan to attend what other financial help they can offer you: Do they have last-minute scholarships or payment plans available? Can you get a job on campus?
- If you still have a financing gap after exhausting your options for scholarships and federal loans, apply for a private student loan.
- Verify your financial aid packet before you set foot on campus.
- Pay attention to final housing and transcript deadlines.
- Ask Ms. Howard to send your final transcript to the college of your choice.

June

- Inform counselor, teacher, and other references about your plans. Thank them for their help!
- Graduate!
- Possibly get a summer job to save some more money for college.