

College Preparation Checklist

- From Birth** Save for college
- High School** Take challenging courses in core subjects like English (4 years), social studies (3 years), mathematics (3 years), science (3 years) and foreign language (2 years)
- Get involved in school or community-based extracurricular activities.
- Freshman** Think about college and career interests (www.studentaid.ed.gov).
- Sophomore** Meet with your school counselor and mentors to discuss colleges and their requirements.
- Junior**
- Investigate financial aid options.
- Review the scholarship checklist below.
- Fall- Take the Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Test.
- Spring- Register for and take exams such as SAT I, SAT II and ACT based on the requirements of the colleges you are interested in.
- Summer- Narrow down the list of colleges and visit them.
- Summer- Contact colleges of interest and request information regarding deadlines, admission requirements and financial aid.
- Senior**
- Fall- Meet with your counselor to make sure you are going to graduate.
- Fall- Register for and take exams such as SAT I, Sat II and ACT.
- Fall- Apply to colleges you have chosen and watch deadlines.
- Fall- Ask your counselors and teachers to submit transcripts and letters of recommendations well before the deadlines.

- Fall- Get your PIN number for FAFSA application.
- Winter- Get parent's and student's tax returns done early.
- Winter- Submit FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon after January 1st as possible.
- Winter- Correct and submit your Student Aid Report (this is send after the FAFSA is turned in).
- Winter- Complete scholarship applications.
- Winter- Men ages 18 to 25 must register for selective service.
- Spring- Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll.
- Spring- Review your college acceptances (hopefully there are some), compare financial aid packages and decide!
- Spring- Notify school that you select and make deposit.
- Summer- Get a summer job.
- Summer- Work out payment plans and borrowing (if any).
- Summer- Review Other Cost Checklist Below.
- Fall- Pack and study hard.

Scholarship Checklist

- Ask employers of parents and students if there are scholarships available.
- Search the Internet (see end of section for possible sites).
- Review the scholarship guides in libraries.
- Meet with guidance counselor.
- Check on local community scholarships.
- Check for scholarships in art, music or theatre.
- Check for athletic scholarships.
- Check for leadership scholarships.
- Check for science and engineering scholarships.
- Check for scholarships in the career field you have chosen.
- Check for the unique scholarship (for example, there is a scholarship awarded for the best prom outfit made from duct tape).

Other Cost Checklist

- Homeowners insurance rider or renters insurance
(Computers, stereos, TV, etc.)
- Auto insurance
(Lower premiums if car not used or away from home)
- Health care insurance
(Consider less expensive school sponsored plan)
- Credit and debit cards
(“Don’t let them leave home with it”)
- Banking policy
- Spending budget
- Telephone policy
- Dating policy
- Alcohol/drugs policy
- Grades policy