

# Class of 2024 Senior Year Prep Checklist

## Summer:

- Develop a list of 10 to 15 colleges that interest you. You can find many colleges where you will be happy and get an excellent education. The college search is about exploring who you are and what you want and finding colleges to meet your goals.
- Evaluate who you are as a student (GPA, test scores, extracurricular, self-driven projects). Stay open to all the possibilities—do not limit your search. To find the best college for you, you should apply to colleges of varying selectivity. Selective colleges admit a portion of students who apply. Some colleges are highly selective, while others are less selective. Make sure to apply to public, private, in-state, and out-of-state schools so that you have plenty of options from which to choose.
- Get your FSA ID: Before filling out your FAFSA, you must get a username and password (also known as an FSA ID).
- Start to gather financial aid documents: Keep a copy of your tax returns handy or have a login for the IRS to plug in those numbers. You will use these to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which opens on October 1st.
- Register with the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center if you are an athlete planning to continue playing a sport in college (ncaaclearinghouse.net).
- Visit colleges. When planning your campus visits, allow time to explore each college. While you are there, talk to as many people as possible. These can include college admission staff, professors, and students. Take campus tours and, at colleges you are serious about, make appointments to have interviews with admission counselors. **YOU ARE ALLOWED TWO EXCUSED COLLEGE VISITS IN THE FALL AND SPRING OF YOUR SENIOR YEAR.**
- Upload your resume or create a resume in Naviance.
- Start working on college application essays (Common App schools are available once you add schools to your list. Keep in mind that not every school requires an essay.
- Make a chart with the below columns:
  - **School**
  - **Admissions deadline**
  - **How you will apply (EA, ED, RD, RA)**
  - **Admission fee**
  - **"Yes or No" If the university requires a letter of recommendation with the quantity**
  - **University scholarships**
  - **Scholarship Deadline**
  - **Top three-five things that stand out to you (i.e., must-haves, good to have, incentives, clubs/organizations, programs, classes, professors, internships, post-graduate job placement, leadership opportunities, study abroad opportunities, etc.)**
- Once you have created this chart, highlight the schools with the same or close admissions deadlines (i.e., all EA, ED schools, and RD schools) to know which schools and scholarships have priority and which have later deadlines.
- Start college applications. Some schools will open admissions as early as July. If you are not ready, you can wait until the fall admissions.
- Complete your SENIOR QUESTIONNAIRE and complete your resume in Naviance by **8.8.23**.

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## August-December Checklist

### August 2023

- Register for the SAT and/or ACT if you did not take a college entrance exam as a junior or want to retake one. **Remember: Your counselor can help with fee waivers.** Once you receive your scores, send them to the university via the CollegeBoard or ACT website.
- Narrow your list of colleges. If needed, meet with your counselor about your college choices, and if you have not done so yet, start viewing the application requirements of the colleges/universities you plan to apply to.
- Plan to visit as many of these colleges as possible if you did not get an opportunity to visit during the summer.
- Search for and apply for local scholarships by the application deadline.

### September 2023

- **Between 9.1.-9.15:** Ask for letters of recommendation for all October 15th (Early Action Deadlines).
- Search for and apply for local scholarships by the application deadline.

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## October 2023

- **10.1. FAFSA application opens.** Complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA): To apply for most financial aid, you must complete the FAFSA.
- **10.1. Complete the CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE:** The CSS Profile is an online application used by specific colleges and scholarship programs to determine eligibility for their aid dollars.
- **The early action application deadline for October is 10.15.** This deadline is not flexible; you must get all your materials, including recommendation letters and test scores, to the school by the stated deadline.
- Request Transcripts via Naviance after submitting your college application **(preferably two weeks before the admissions deadline).**
- Apply for university scholarships by the deadline provided by the university.
- **By 10.1:** Ask for letters of recommendation for November 15<sup>th</sup> (Early Action Deadlines).

## November-December 2023

- **The early action deadline for November is 11.1.** This deadline is not flexible; you must get all your materials, including recommendation letters and test scores to the school by the stated deadline.
- Apply for university scholarships by the deadline provided by the university.
- Request Transcripts via Naviance after submitting your college applications **(preferably two weeks before the admissions deadline).**
- Search for and apply for local scholarships by the application deadline.
- Acceptance letters and financial aid offers will arrive around Thanksgiving break for EA schools. **Review your acceptances, and compare financial aid packages.**
- **Between November 1-17 or 11-27-12.20,** Ask for letters of recommendation for January's regular admissions deadlines.
- **Not every school requires a mid-year report. Do your research. If you need a mid-year report submitted after the break, please request it in Naviance before we leave for the break.**

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## January 2024

- **Regular decision application deadlines are between 1.1-1.15.** This deadline is not flexible; you must get all your materials, including recommendation letters and test scores, to the school by the stated deadline.
- Request Transcripts via Naviance after submitting your college application **(preferably two weeks before the admissions deadline).**
- Search for and apply for local scholarships by the application deadline.
- **Ask for letters of recommendation for February's regular admissions deadlines.**

## February 2024

- **The regular decision application deadlines for some universities are in February also.** This deadline is not flexible; you must get all your materials, including recommendation letters and test scores, to the school by the stated deadline.
- Request Transcripts via Naviance after submitting your college application **(preferably two weeks before the admissions deadline).**
- **Not every school requires a mid-year transcript.** If your college choice requires a Mid-Year Transcript, please request it via Naviance **two weeks before the deadline.**
- Acceptance letters and financial aid offers will start to arrive. Review your acceptances, compare financial aid packages, and visit your final choices.
- Search for and apply for local scholarships by the application deadline.

## March-April 2024

- Search for and apply for local scholarships by the application deadline.
- Keep active in school. If you are waitlisted, the college will want to know what you have accomplished between applying and learning 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 admission and/or financial aid offer by **May 1st.** Colleges cannot require your deposit or commitment to attend before May 1st. Talk to your counselor or adviser if you have questions.
- After you have made your college selection, Send your deposit to **one college only.**
- Did a college waitlist you? If you intend to enroll if 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 are accepted.

## May 2024

- Complete your GRADUATION SURVEY in Naviance by May 10th, 2024.
- Request that your final transcript is sent to the university you have decided to attend **(after grades are final and posted).** **MUST REQUEST VIA NAVIANCE**