



college path checklist

The college search process can be a challenge, especially at first. But with a little planning, it also can be a rewarding journey. The following checklist can help keep you on the right track throughout your search.

Junior year

- Set a challenging, rigorous course of study for your last two years of high school
- Take the college admissions test(s) (ACT, SAT)
- Meet with your high school counselor or your college consultant
- Begin your college search:
 - Develop a list of important questions to ask*
 - Go to college fairs
 - Attend college visits at your high school
 - Listen to recommendations from friends and family
 - Explore colleges websites
 - Research schools through their college catalogs and other publications
 - Become familiar with resources such as college rankings and online college search sites
 - Reflect on your priorities for your college experience
- Start college visits:
 - Meet with a college admissions counselor
 - Take a tour
 - Meet with a professor in your academic area
 - Sit in on a class
 - Talk with coaches, music directors and others who lead college programs in your areas of interest
 - Look for opportunities to “connect” with college personnel
 - Ask those important questions on your list*

Summer before your senior year

- Continue college visits
- Ask friends about their first year of college
- Organize and read the college literature you’ve received
- Put together a résumé

Senior year

- Continue rigorous college prep curriculum
- Retake ACT or SAT if you wish. Also take achievement tests (AP, SAT II).
- Apply to colleges early (consult your counselor):
 - Apply online or acquire an application
 - Fill out and keep a copy of completed application
- Follow your high school’s procedure to send:
 - Application and fee
 - Transcript through high school
 - Test scores (ACT, SAT)
 - Original writing sample (if required)
 - Recommendations (as specified by the college)
- Schedule an interview with colleges on your list
- Follow up to make sure all materials arrive at the college
- Continue visiting colleges, and if you like what you see, visit again
- Set up an overnight visit at colleges that appeal to you
- Investigate scholarships that may be available at your colleges (ie. academic and co-curricular)
- Fill out additional forms required for scholarships
- Look for local/private scholarship programs
- Fill out required financial assistance materials after January 1
- Select your college by May 1
- Send necessary deposit(s) and find out about housing
- Notify schools not selected

* See the “25 Questions to Ask a College” public service brochure from Augustana College
For more information, go to www.CollegeQuestions.org.