

# College Prep Checklist

## High School Freshmen:

- ✓ Take advanced classes: English, math, history, the arts, government, geography or a foreign language; anything to enhance your education.
- ✓ Get to know your school's Career Counselor
- ✓ Talk to adults in the field you are interested. Ask about their 'likes' and 'dislikes' and what education they received for their job.
- ✓ Continue saving for college

## High School Sophomores:

- ✓ Take advanced classes: English, math, history, the arts, government, geography or a foreign language; anything to enhance your education.
- ✓ Become involved in extra curricular activities that interest or enable you to explore your career interests.
- ✓ Meet with your career counselor to discuss colleges and their requirements
- ✓ Take college visits and talk to college students
- ✓ Continue saving for college

## High School Juniors:

- ✓ Take advanced classes: English, math, government, history, the arts, geography or a foreign language; anything to enhance your education.
- ✓ Meet with your career counselor to discuss college requirements.
- ✓ Continue involvement in extra-curricular activities.

- ✓ Contact colleges that interest you and contact them to request information on applying for admission. Ask about admissions requirements, financial aid and deadlines.
- ✓ Talk with college representatives at college fairs.
- ✓ Visit colleges and talk to students.
- ✓ Consider people to ask for recommendation letters – teachers, counselors, employers, etc.
- ✓ Check out financial aid opportunities – ask your guidance counselor for more information.
- ✓ Investigate the availability of scholarships provided by organizations such as corporations, labor unions, professional associations, religious organizations, and credit unions.
- ✓ If applicable, go to the library and look for directories of scholarships for women, minorities, and disabled students.
- ✓ Register for and take the SAT I, the ACT, SAT II Subject Tests or any other exams required for admission to the colleges you might want to attend. If you have difficulty paying the registration fee, see your guidance counselor about getting a fee waiver.
- ✓ Continue to save for college.

### **High School Seniors:**

- ✓ Take some advanced classes: English, math, government, history, the arts, geography or a foreign language; anything to enhance your education.
- ✓ Send in college application early September.
- ✓ Meet with counselor early in year to discuss your plans.
- ✓ Complete all necessary financial aid forms:

**[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**

- ✓ Write colleges to request information and applications for admission. Ask about financial aid, admissions requirements and deadlines.
- ✓ Visit colleges you are interested in.
- ✓ Register for SAT I, ACT, SAT II subject tests or other exams required by the college you are interested in. If you have difficulty paying the registration fee, ask your counselor about getting a fee waiver.
- ✓ Prepare your application carefully. Follow the instructions, and **PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!** Be sure to ask your counselor and teachers at least two weeks before your application deadlines to submit the necessary documents to colleges (your transcript, letters of recommendation, etc.)

## **Useful Web Sites**

Federal Student Aid home page:

**[www.studentaid.ed.gov](http://www.studentaid.ed.gov)**

*The Student Guide* (12th grade and beyond) and *Funding Your Education* (before 12th grade) are available at this site.

*FAFSA on the Web:*

**[www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)**

Personal Identification Number (PIN):

[www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)

Federal government resources for education:

[www.students.gov](http://www.students.gov)

## General Information

Information about federal student aid programs, assistance with the application process and how to obtain federal student aid publications.

**1-800-4-FED-AID (1-800-433-3243)**

TTY for the hearing-impaired 1-800-730-8913



*College Preparation Checklist.* , 2003. Web. 7 Mar 2011.  
<[studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/CollPrep.pdf](http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/attachments/siteresources/CollPrep.pdf)>.