

Preparing for College: Senior Year Checklist

August

- Keep on track academically to be college and career ready.
- Look into your top college choices online or go on campus visits, and request admission information.
- Retake your ACT and/or SAT to improve your score.
- Sign up for the MDHE Journey to College Monthly Reminder.

October

- Sign up for an FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov.
- Attend a FAFSA Frenzy event for free help completing your FAFSA.
- Finalize your admissions essays, auditions, portfolios and writing samples.

December

- Compare college costs and programs.
- Research and apply for college, local and private scholarships.
- Consider job shadowing for a better look at your desired career.

February

- Research taking Advanced Placement (AP) or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.
- Ask your counselor to send your grade transcripts to your top college choices.
- Review financial aid award letters. Call the financial aid office with questions.

April

- Watch for acceptance letters and financial aid awards. Review, compare, sign and return appropriate forms.
- Make any deposits required.
- Finish any AP exams or projects.

June

- Plan for college orientation, transportation and housing.
- Prepare a realistic budget you can follow throughout college.
- Follow up with the financial aid office at your college to ensure all paperwork is complete.

September

- Ask your counselor about creating a resume, requesting recommendation letters, and applying for scholarships.
- Take advantage of Apply Missouri resources to find your best fit for college.
- Be aware of college application due dates and financial aid deadlines.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid events in your area.

November

- Go on campus visits and meet with a financial aid officer to help you narrow or finalize your college choice.
- Once you file your FAFSA, watch for your Student Aid Report and check it for accuracy.

January

- Complete your FAFSA by Feb. 1 to meet the new priority deadline to be eligible for the Access Missouri Grant.
- Submit IRS tax transcripts or other verification forms to the financial aid office, if requested.

March

- Be sure to complete your FAFSA by April 1 to meet the final deadline to be eligible for the Access Missouri Grant.
- Develop a financial plan to pay for college.
- Watch for housing and other college deadlines.

May

- Try to make your final college choice by May 1, National Decision Day.
- Finalize summer job plans and save a portion of your earnings.
- Be sure to notify the schools where you were accepted but will not be attending.

July

- Finalize move-in dates, housing and transportation for the start of the fall semester.
- Be sure you are enrolled in the required number of credit hours for scholarships and other financial aid awards.



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