

SENIOR YEAR PLANNING CHECKLIST

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- GET PSYCHED FOR SENIOR YEAR!
- MEET WITH COUNSELOR AND DOUBLE CHECK GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS, DISCUSS OTHER POST HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS, AND MAKE A PRELIMINARY COLLEGE LIST
- PLAN CAMPUS VISITS
- CREATE CALENDAR OF ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID DEADLINES
- REGISTER FOR OCTOBER, NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER TEST DATES IF RETAKING ACT OR SAT
- REQUEST TEACHER RECOMMENDATIONS
- DRAFT COMMON APPLICATION ESSAYS

OCTOBER

- WORK HARD IN YOUR CLASSES!
- ATTEND ADMISSION REP VISITS AT THE HIGH SCHOOL
- COMPLETE FAFSA
- POLISH COMMON APP ESSAYS AND BEGIN SUPPLEMENTAL ESSAYS (IF REQUIRED)
- FINALIZE LIST OF SCHOOLS TO APPLY TO
- COMPLETE EARLY DECISION AND/OR EARLY ACTION APPLICATIONS IF APPLYING EARLY
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NOVEMBER

- PREPARE TO SUBMIT REGULAR DECISION APPLICATIONS IN ADVANCE OF DEADLINES
- SCHEDULE VIRTUAL OR IN-PERSON INTERVIEWS IF AVAILABLE
- CLEAN UP SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS
- RESEARCH AND APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS
- TAKE CARE OF YOUR HEALTH!
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SENIOR YEAR PLANNING CHECKLIST

DECEMBER

- ☐ FOLLOW UP WITH TEACHER/COUNSELOR ABOUT RECOMMENDATIONS
- ☐ SEND TEST SCORES AND TRANSCRIPTS TO PLACES YOU HAVE APPLIED
- ☐ COMPLETE APPLICATION AND SUPPLEMENTALS ITEMS NEEDED
- ☐ SUBMIT ANY OTHER APPLICATIONS BEFORE WINTER BREAK SO YOU CAN ENJOY THE HOLIDAYS
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JANUARY

- ☐ SUBMIT APPLICATIONS TO COLLEGES WITH LATE DEADLINES
- ☐ SEND FALL SEMESTER GRADE REPORT
- ☐ FOLLOW UP WITH SCHOOLS AND MAKE SURE YOUR APPLICATIONS ARE COMPLETE
- ☐ CONSIDERING A GAP YEAR OR AN ALTERNATIVE TO COLLEGE? RESEARCH YOUR OPTIONS
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FEBRUARY

- ☐ STAY ENGAGED WITH HIGH SCHOOL AND WATCH OUT FOR SENIORITIS
- ☐ CONTINUE TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS (BE MINDFUL OF DEADLINES)
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SENIOR YEAR PLANNING CHECKLIST

MARCH

- **CELEBRATE YOUR OFFERS OF ADMISSION!**
- **COMPARE FINANCIAL AID AWARDS**
- **THINK ABOUT SUMMER (JOB? INTERNSHIP? VOLUNTEER? TRAVEL?)**
- **FOCUS ON SELF-CARE**
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APRIL

- **ATTEND "ADMITTED STUDENT" EVENTS AT COLLEGES YOU ARE CONSIDERING (CONNECT U)**
- **DECIDE WHETHER TO ACCEPT WAITLIST SPOTS (IF OFFERED)**
- **KEEP GRADES UP! THE SCHOOL YOU CHOOSE WILL REQUIRE A FINAL TRANSCRIPT**
- **CHOOSE YOUR COLLEGE AND SEND ANY DEPOSITS THEY MAY REQUIRE**
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MAY

- **TAKE ANY PLACEMENT TESTS THAT YOU MAY NEED**
- **SEND THANK YOU NOTES TO THE PEOPLE WHO WROTE YOU RECOMMENDATIONS**
- **RESEARCH FIRST YEAR HOUSING OPTIONS AND CONNECT WITH POTENTIAL ROOMMATES**
- **FINISH STRONG!**
- **HAPPY GRADUATION!**
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COMMON APPLICATION ESSAY QUESTIONS

- **SOME STUDENTS HAVE A BACKGROUND, IDENTITY, OR TALENT THAT IS SO MEANINGFUL THEY BELIEVE THEIR APPLICATION WOULD BE INCOMPLETE WITHOUT IT. IF THIS SOUNDS LIKE YOU, THEN PLEASE SHARE YOUR STORY.**
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- **THE LESSONS WE TAKE FROM OBSTACLES WE ENCOUNTER CAN BE FUNDAMENTAL TO LATER SUCCESS. RECOUNT A TIME YOU FACED A CHALLENGE, SETBACK, OR FAILURE. HOW DID IT AFFECT YOU, AND WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE EXPERIENCE?**
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- **REFLECT ON A TIME WHEN YOU QUESTIONED OR CHALLENGED A BELIEF OR IDEA. WHAT PROMPTED YOUR THINKING? WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?**
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- **REFLECT ON SOMETHING THAT SOMEONE HAS DONE FOR YOU THAT HAS MADE YOU HAPPY OR THANKFUL IN A SURPRISING WAY. HOW HAS THIS GRATITUDE AFFECTED OR MOTIVATED YOU?**
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- **DESCRIBE A TOPIC, IDEA, OR CONCEPT YOU FIND SO ENGAGING THAT IT MAKES YOU LOSE ALL TRACK OF TIME. WHY DOES IT CAPTIVATE YOU? WHAT OR WHO DO YOU TURN TO WHEN YOU WANT TO LEARN MORE?**
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- **DISCUSS AN ACCOMPLISHMENT, EVENT, OR REALIZATION THAT SPARKED A PERIOD OF PERSONAL GROWTH AND A NEW UNDERSTANDING OF YOURSELF OR OTHERS.**
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- **SHARE AN ESSAY ON ANY TOPIC OF YOUR CHOICE. IT CAN BE ONE YOU'VE ALREADY WRITTEN, ONE THAT RESPONDS TO A DIFFERENT PROMPT, OR ONE OF YOUR OWN DESIGN.**
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