COLLEGE PREPARATION CHECKLIST-For high school students

Refer to this checklist each year to ensure you are on track to create a competitive college application.



9 TH GRADE:

- [ ] Pick your class schedule wisely. See if you can enroll in advanced/honor classes
- [ ] Get involved. Participate in extra-curricular activities (sports, volunteer work, clubs)
- [ ] Explore. Participate in at least one activity that supports your academic interests

10TH GRADE:

- [ ] Enroll in tough courses you feel confident you can also do well in
- [ ] Begin preparing for ACT or SAT. Find a tutor if you need one
- [ ] Focus on your commitment to a few extra-curricular activities
- [ ] Get to know your teachers and school counselors
- [ ] Consider engaging your community outside of school. Are there any local, national, or international competitions or organizations you can be a part of?
- [ ] Start putting your resume together
- [ ] Research colleges and visit a few in the summer

11TH GRADE:

- [ ] Enroll in tough courses you feel confident you can also do well in (sign up for AP Classes or a dual credit course if available)
- [ ] Focus on academics this year and getting the best grades
- [ ] Study for all standardized tests
- [ ] Take the PSAT. Students who take the test their junior year can qualify for the National Merit Scholarship/Program
- [ ] Register and take SAT or ACT
- [ ] Decide which teachers/people you may want to write your letter of recommendation
- [ ] Take a deep dive with your extra-curricular activities. See what leadership roles you can take on and ways you can make an impact in those organizations
- [ ] Start applying for outside scholarships
- [ ] Start working on your college applications and essays during the summer

12TH GRADE:

- [ ] Enroll in tough courses you feel confident you can also do well in (sign up for AP Classes or a dual credit course if available)
- [ ] Have your parents or a college counselor review your application
- [ ] Finalize your college applications and submit them
- [ ] Finish all standardized tests and send test scores as required
- [ ] Attend college fairs
- [ ] Apply for scholarships
- [ ] Fill out financial aid profiles and apply for scholarships
- [ ] Make final campus visits
- [ ] Hear back from colleges and decide which one you want to attend
- [ ] Graduate
- [ ] Thank everyone who helped you!

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