



# 12th Grade

## COLLEGE PLANNING

*The following are things college bound seniors need to do to plan and prepare for college. Use this checklist to help you stay focused and on track. Check items off as they are completed.*

### Get Organized

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**Make a testing plan.** If you haven't taken the ACT or SAT, or you want to improve your scores, register for one of these tests ASAP. For information and to register, go to [act.org](http://act.org) or [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org).

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**Set up a master calendar.** Use this calendar to help you keep track of test dates, college visits, application deadlines, and college events at your school.

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**Set up a college file.** In this file, keep copies of test scores and applications, notes on college visits, and anything else of importance.

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**Plan college visits.** If you haven't visited a college you're considering, schedule a visit as soon as possible.

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**Meet with your counselor.** Talk to your counselor about your college choices, possible majors, and financial aid. Your counselor can help you with any questions or concerns you may have.

### Your To-Do List

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**Discuss college costs.** Talk to your parents about the cost of the college(s) you're considering, and discuss how your education will be paid for.

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**Decide where to apply.** Determine what's needed for each application (essay, transcript, recommendations, etc.).

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**Complete applications.** Be aware of deadlines! Make sure you give your counselor and anyone who's writing a recommendation plenty of time.

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**Complete the FAFSA** (Free Application for Student Aid). *This is important!* The FAFSA is available on October 1. Visit [fafsa.ed.gov](http://fafsa.ed.gov).

### You're On Your Way

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**Consider your offers.** Be on the lookout for college acceptance letters and for financial aid offers. Compare all financial aid offers very carefully.

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**Make the decision.** Once you've decided which college you will attend, complete the necessary forms.

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**Follow through.** Contact the college(s) you applied to and will not attend, tell your counselor where to send your final transcript, and thank anyone who helped you with the college application process.

*Stay focused and finish your senior year strong!*