

# College Planning Checklist for 12th Graders



Needless to say, senior year is full of important to-dos. Here's a checklist to help keep you on track for success when it comes time to apply for college.

## August-December To-Do's

- Finalize your college list**  
*Whittle down your list to 6-8 balanced colleges.*
- Consider and plan for re-testing**  
*There's still time to re-test if you want to increase your score.*
- Complete the FAFSA**  
*It becomes available on October 1st!*
- Complete the CSS Profile**  
*Check to see if you're applying to a school that accepts this application for aid.*
- Tidy up those essays**  
*Have someone proofread your work*
- Stay on top of recommendations**  
*Do your recommenders have what they need to write you a stellar letter?*
- Prepare for early applications**  
*Applying early? Mark those due dates on your calendar and have your materials ready.*
- Stay organized**

## January-March To-Do's

- Confirm your applications**  
*Make sure you've received confirmation of your applications—it's never a bad idea to double check!*
- Verify your financial aid**  
*Take time to review your Student Aid Report (SAR)*
- Research scholarship opportunities**  
*Are there any scholarships you might be eligible for?*
- Meet with your counselor**  
*At this point, it's never a bad idea to meet with your counselor for one more check-in before graduation.*
- Write thank-you notes**  
*Whoever took the time to write a recommendation letter for you deserves to get a thank-you note!*
- Continue making memories!**  
*Enjoy your senior year to its fullest!*

Students on Scoir can also send their counselor a direct message to check in!

## April-July To-Do's

**Keep your grades up**

*If you're a student-athlete planning to play in college, make sure you register with the NCAA.*

**Review financial aid offer letters**

*If so, you should begin the application process before the summer.*

**Make final decisions**

*The FAFSA will open on October 1st of your senior year. You'll want to apply as soon as possible after it's available. Over the summer months, make sure you create a username and password (FSA ID) and collect financial documents like tax returns.*

**Make your final deposit**

*Record and collect the accomplishments, extracurriculars, and work experience that you have accumulated over your high school career.*

**Ensure your final transcript is sent**

*Summer is a great time to—at the very least—brainstorm topics for your college essay and pick a date for when you are going to start writing.*

**Consider your waitlist options**

*Stay active over the summer! Whether that's by bagging groceries, signing up to be a camp counselor, or participating in a summer program...just stay active!*

The journey to college starts with self-exploration. Our Network can help you take those first steps.  
[Learn more](#)

