

12th Grade Checklist

Senior year is an exciting and busy time in the college admissions process. Keep up with your schoolwork as you balance your academic responsibilities with the college application process. Use this checklist to stay on track.

August/September

- Meet with your school counselor to make sure you will have enough credits at the end of the year to graduate and that the credits meet college admissions requirements.
- Update your resumé, highlighting accomplishments, work experience, and awards. Provide a copy to teachers who will write letters of recommendation for you (pp. 12-13).
- Finalize your list of colleges and universities, and check their application requirements (p. 32).
- Continue working on your applications, planning to meet all deadlines (p. 38).
- Research scholarship opportunities and request application materials (p. 50-55).
- Work with your parents or guardians to gather the financial documents and materials necessary for filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA; pp. 44-45).
- Apply for a FSA ID at studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account. Keep your login information in a safe place. You will need to refer to it often (p. 45).



Thaddeus Stevens College of Technology

October/November

- Watch for your FAFSA submission summary, which will be available online shortly after you submit your FAFSA online. Check your FSS for any errors and make the necessary corrections (p. 45).
- Determine whether the colleges which interest you require the CSS Profile on www.collegeboard.org by searching each school's website or by calling the school's financial aid office (p. 46).
- Attend a financial aid workshop or virtual class with your parents or guardians; visit bigfuture.collegeboard.org/pay-for-college/financial-aid.
- Visit as many of your potential colleges as possible, virtually or in-person (pp. 22-23).
- Attend free virtual or in-person college fairs throughout the year (p. 21).
- Take the SAT or ACT (pp. 27-30).
- Check all college application deadlines and submit your materials and fees on time. Remember: the application deadline for early admission and early decision is usually around November 1 or 15. Use the Track Your College Applications worksheet to stay organized (p. 38).
- Make copies of all documents you send by mail or submit online and place them in your college file.
- Follow up with colleges to make sure your early action, rolling admissions, and early decision application materials were received (p. 38).
- Confirm your citizenship status with the U.S. Social Security Administration (800-772-1213, TTY 1-800-325-0778, or www.ssa.gov), if you are unsure.

December

- The FAFSA will become available in December 2023. Complete and submit the FAFSA (studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid or 1-800-4-FED-AID or TTY 1-800-730-8913) to be eligible for state, federal, and institutional grants and loans. Be ready for requests for income verification; check your email regularly (pp. 44-45).