

KIDS2CAREERS: SENIOR YEAR CHECKLIST



SENIOR YEAR IS AN
EXCITING AND BUSY
TIME —USE THIS
CHECKLIST TO MEET
IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

Add **TARGET DATES** in the provided boxes and schedule
time to complete the **ACTIVITIES** outlined below.

Remember to add these new dates to your digital calendar!

ACTIVITY

TARGET DATE

- ☐ Take or retake the [SAT/ACT](#) (register at least 1mo. in advance, plus study time) —
- ☐ Keep your grades up! Final transcript will be closely reviewed for rigor and grades —
- ☐ [Track & compare colleges](#) or [training programs](#) (deadlines, requirements, highlights) —
- ☐ Use [Net Cost Estimators](#) to determine the most affordable college choices —
- ☐ Add [ACPE's Google Calendar](#) to your personal calendar —
- ☐ Add applications/financial aid deadlines & reminders to your calendar —
- ☐ Update My Resume Info ([AKCIS](#)) with achievements, activities, skills and job details —
- ☐ Ask for [letters of recommendation](#); provide your resume & important details —
- ☐ Whether applying to one or more colleges, consider [safety, match, & reach](#) —
- ☐ Review [personal statement examples](#) & outline YOUR personal statement —
- ☐ Begin college and career & technical admissions applications & essays —
- ☐ [Create FSA ID](#) (ea. contributor: you & legal parent(s); record login somewhere safe) —

August - September



Continued: SENIOR YEAR — CHECKLIST

USE THIS CHECKLIST TO MEET IMPORTANT DEADLINES:



October - December

ACTIVITY

TARGET DATE

- ☐ Build a scholarship list, calendar deadlines, and begin applying for scholarships
- ☐ Gather tax information - not last year, but the year prior (each FAFSA contributor)
- ☐ **Complete the FAFSA** (studentaid.gov) opens Dec. 1; **CSS Profiler if required** (you and each parent)
- ☐ Review your FAFSA Submission Summary (FSS) after completing the FAFSA
- ☐ Ask a school counselor/trusted adult to review your essays/applications
- ☐ Finish & submit admissions applications and essays (Oct. - Dec. Deadlines)
- ☐ Use winter break to finish any remaining applications (Jan. - Mar. Deadlines)
- ☐ Contact financial aid offices to confirm requirements and aid options
- ☐ Discuss w school counselor progress toward grad and postsecondary requirements
- ☐ Write thank you notes to people who wrote recommendations or helped you

January - April

ACTIVITY

TARGET DATE

- ☐ **File your taxes** and save copies (yours and each parent's) somewhere safe
- ☐ Send **FAFSA** to applicant institutions (**CSS Profiler** or **SRAR/SSAR** where required)
- ☐ **Create your ASAP account** (to track APS & AEG award eligibility)
- ☐ Set up/monitor college portals weekly for important communications
- ☐ Check email daily for important notices re: colleges and financial aid awards
- ☐ Work on scholarship applications and ensure deadlines are on your digital calendar
- ☐ Map estimated admissions/award notification dates on a **spreadsheet**
- ☐ **Compare financial aid letters**, read them carefully and find the best deal for you
- ☐ Explore campuses/programs of interest - in-person, virtual, contact departments
- ☐ Research/apply for summer internships and jobs related to your career interest



Continued: SENIOR YEAR — CHECKLIST

USE THIS CHECKLIST TO MEET IMPORTANT DEADLINES:



ACTIVITY

TARGET DATE

May - July

- ☐ Accept your best offer and pay your deposit by May 1 _____
- ☐ Take AP tests if appropriate _____
- ☐ Request high school transcripts be sent to final institution upon graduation _____
- ☐ If you are waitlisted, let those schools know if you are still interested _____
- ☐ If offered, attend newly admitted events with your family when able _____
- ☐ Register to attend orientation over the summer if applicable (usually Jun-Aug) _____
- ☐ Check with family/institution about health insurance options; order extra cards _____
- ☐ Schedule physical exam, shots/records before you leave town/start school _____
- ☐ [Request 529 distributions](#) 2-3 weeks before payment deadlines _____
- ☐ Accept any needed [Federal loans](#) after approval (application is the FAFSA) _____
- ☐ Apply for any needed [low cost state loans](#) 2 months prior to tuition deadlines _____
- ☐ Consider durable power of attorney, joint banking so family can help once 18yo _____
- ☐ Make a list of what you need for school/living arrangements - think minimal _____
- ☐ Determine/arrange transportation options _____
- ☐ Consider extracurricular activities at your new college and make inquiries _____

ACTIVITY

TARGET DATE

Aug - Sep

- ☐ Work with your advisor to finalize your course schedule _____
- ☐ Pack and/or ship your essentials; campus websites will include what to bring _____
- ☐ Schedule an appointment with your financial aid advisor _____
- ☐ Scope out your classrooms and calculate how long it will take to get to each one _____
- ☐ Purchase any last minute supplies (college websites have lists) _____
- ☐ Ensure your family has a good mailing address for you _____
- ☐ Participate in new student activities & make new friends _____
- ☐ Create a healthy schedule with study time, physical activity, and clubs _____