

Senior Year Checklist

All items listed below are subject to change or vary based on the requirements of specific high schools, colleges, counselors, etc. It's advisable to stay in constant communication with all parties involved, and get ahead when possible!

August/September

- Research your Top 10 colleges with the purpose of narrowing down to a Top 3–5.
- Visit colleges of interest and attend college fairs.
- Determine if you are applying for an “impacted major,” which may require higher admission standards.
- Fill out college applications early! Some colleges need applications in by October 1st for certain housing and scholarship options.
- Sign up and take the SAT test. Multiple attempts will help increase your score. Register at www.collegeboard.org. Test dates: 10/5, 11/2, 12/7, 3/14, 5/2
- Sign up and take the ACT test. Multiple attempts will help increase your score. Register at www.actstudent.org. Test dates: 10/26, 12/14, 2/8, 4/4
- See Mrs. Bradshaw in the College and Career Center to sign up for the TSI.
- Take the ASVAB for career explorations. It is administered at SHS on 12/13.
- Narrow your list of potential colleges to 1–2 “stretch schools” where you might be on the lower GPA and SAT[®]/ACT[®] score average, 1–2 “strong match schools” where you meet the schools’ average GPA and SAT/ACT average, and 1 “fallback school” that you are certain you will get into.
- Determine application options (early decision, early action, or regular decision).
- Apply to Texas schools at www.applytexas.org and out of state schools at www.commonapp.org.
- Update résumé.
- Ask for an unofficial transcript.
- Determine which AP exams you are going to take and register for those.
- Compute final GPA to be submitted on applications.
- Ask select teachers/counselors/others to write letters of recommendation.
- Order cap, gown, and announcements for graduation.
- Keep your grades up and stay in challenging courses! 75% of revoked acceptances are because seniors do poorly in classes or take too light of a load!
- G Force mentors are available every Thursday during all lunches in the College and Career Center throughout the year.

October

- Students and parents apply for their FAFSA ID
- Complete the FAFSA application and worksheet, and submit FAFSA as soon as possible.
- Revise college essays for submission.
- Request fee waivers from Cathy Bradshaw in the College and Career Center.
- Submit public college applications online.
- Submit applications if applying “early decision.”
- Be sure you include courses you’ve taken as dual credit or at a community college on your applications.
- Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 1 scholarship for the month of October.
- Super Saturday 10/12 at HCTC.
- College Fair 10/23 at HCTC.

November/December

- Submit applications for private colleges/universities.
- Research financial aid requirements and deadlines.
- Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 3 scholarships in November and December.
- Keep those grades up! Reach out for help if you feel like you are falling behind.
- FASFA Workshop for parents and students 11/11, 4:30 – 7:00pm at SHS. More dates to come.

January

- Make sure all test scores (SAT, ACT, AP®) have been submitted to colleges/universities where you have applied.
- Continue filling out scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for the month of January.
- Be sure to contact colleges early if there were unexpected changes to your class schedule.

February/March

- Enroll and take English and Math Placement Tests for colleges. See Cathy Bradshaw in the College and Career Center to sign up.
- Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 3 scholarships for February and March.
- Research dorm applications and deadlines.
- At the end of March, follow up with colleges that you haven't heard from to be sure they have everything they need (transcript, SAT/ACT scores, essays, fee waiver, etc.).

April

- Attend AP study sessions and mock exams if you are signed up to take an AP exam.
- Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for April. (Look into scholarships at the college/university that you plan to attend.)
- Be sure to submit your housing application to the school that you plan to attend.
- Research the placement tests that you will need to take (and pass) at the college that you plan to attend.
- Were you denied admission? Don't give up, contact the admissions office, and ask if there is an appeal process.
- Don't slack! Finish strong. A drop in grades is the number one reason that colleges revoke admissions (over 50%).

May/Early June

- Send out graduation announcements to those you want to attend the graduation ceremony.
- Take AP exams. Be sure test scores are sent to the appropriate colleges.
- Look into taking college courses at a local community college (especially courses that cover any remediation or first-year classes, if you haven't passed).
- Be sure you send official transcripts from courses taken at the community college to the college you will attend. Order official transcripts from www.parchment.com
- Continue applying for scholarships, with a minimum of 2 scholarships for May. (Look into scholarships at the college/university that you plan to attend.)
- See your physician to get a meningitis shot, as you will need this to attend college.
- Write thank-you notes to teachers and your counselor for helping you through the process, and to anyone who gave you a graduation gift.
- Take a day to celebrate the fact that you graduated and are one step closer to your dreams of college.
- Notify schools that you are not attending.

Early Summer

- Send deposits for housing (if you haven't already).
- Sign up for orientation.
- Enroll in classes
- Be sure you have completed and passed placement tests for English and math.
- Send official score reports to college from ACT/SAT.
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Talk to counselor about sending final transcript to college.
- Contact your roommate:
 - Name: _____ Phone Number: _____ Email: _____
- Contact financial aid office at the college that you plan to attend to be sure they have everything they need:
 - Phone Number: _____
- Search campus job opportunities.
- Accept financial aid and determine if you need to accept student loans (tuition, housing, books).
- FIND OUT HOW TO LOG IN TO CAMPUS WEBSITE AND YOUR STUDENT EMAIL. A lot of important emails may come to the new college email, and you will miss it if you aren't checking.

Late Summer

- Check out campus organization, clubs, etc.
- Be sure that AP scores are sent to college and adjust first semester schedule accordingly.
- Attend orientation:
 - Date: _____ Location: _____
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Set up appointment with academic advisor.
- Get student ID card.
- BE SURE YOU SIGN INTO YOUR COLLEGE EMAIL ACCOUNT!
- Pack. (Coordinate larger items with roommate.)
- Obtain parking permits.
- Determine if professors have posted syllabi and look into purchasing books.

Early First Semester (Freshman Year of College)

- Check out tutoring opportunities.
- Study, study, study. (Remember that studying in college is not just doing homework; it is reading the book and reviewing your notes every day.)
- Visit the Financial Aid Office and find out about scholarship opportunities.
- Look into extracurricular activities.
- Go to the Tutoring Center on campus and find out about resources.
- Introduce yourself to your professor.
- Follow Study Group Plan.
- Calendar dates of homework and tests.
- Critically read the syllabi to examine grading expectations and midterm/final projects or tests.
- Attend at least one set of professor office hours during the first two weeks.
- Talk with other students from your classes and share contact info (for study groups, missed classes).
- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Set up a study group with students from your class (friends from dorm).
- Check grades.

- Set up regular study hours.
- Reserve study group locations.
- Locate the campus counselling department for extra support.

Late First Semester (Freshman Year of College)

- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Prepare to re-apply for financial aid in January. (This is a yearly process!)
- If attending a community college: Check if the classes that you are taking will transfer to your destination four-year college in your intended major (not the community college that you are attending). Talk with an admissions counselor at the destination school to determine a transfer timeline.

(Adapted from AVID)