

Senior Year Checklist

Fall

_____ Narrow your college choices to 3 – 5 schools. Include a “reach” school (one to which you may not be accepted or may not be able to afford) and a “safety” school (one you feel sure you can attend.)

_____ Apply to colleges.

_____ Complete college scholarship applications. In most cases, you can do this when you apply. Be sure to check deadlines for both admissions and scholarships.

_____ Take (and retake) the ACT. Check with individual colleges to find out the final ACT they will accept for admissions/scholarships.

_____ Visit colleges and attend college fairs. Most colleges have senior days. Check the college website or call for the dates for senior days. If you can’t attend a senior day, make an appointment to visit.

_____ Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) beginning October 1. www.fafsa.ed.gov or <https://studentaid.ed.gov>

_____ Beginning October 1, apply for the Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship and other financial aid opportunities offered through the Arkansas Dept. of Higher Education. Go to <http://scholarships.adhe.edu> to complete the YOUNiversal application.

_____ Write your resume. Be sure to include extra-curricular activities and awards throughout your high school years.

_____ Request letters of recommendation and write essays if needed for scholarships. Choose someone who knows you well to write your recommendation, and give him/her a copy of your resume. Plan ahead – don’t expect someone to write a recommendation at the last minute. ALWAYS thank the person who writes a letter of recommendation – a personal note is best.

_____ Begin checking for private scholarships.

Spring

_____ Retake the ACT if your college will accept spring scores.

_____ Check for private scholarships.

_____ Visit colleges. (Visit a second time if you are still unsure.)

_____ Make a final decision and contact the college. Check your dates – many colleges have a May 1 deadline. If you have been accepted to other colleges, let them know you will not attend.

_____ Continue to check for private scholarships.

_____ Complete housing applications if you will stay on campus. (*Be sure to check on housing right away when you apply and are accepted to a college – it is usually best to do this as soon as possible for the best dorms selections.*)

_____ Check with the college you will attend to find out about registration procedures, orientation dates, etc.

When in doubt ASK, and ASK again.

Remember to take time to relax and have fun - your senior year will go by fast!

Websites:

<http://scholarships.adhe.edu> Arkansas Dept. of Higher Ed. (Arkansas Academic Challenge Scholarship, other Arkansas scholarships)

www.fafsa.ed.gov or <https://studentaid.ed.gov> Free Application for Federal Student Aid