



College and Career Readiness Checklist: 12th Grade

Congratulations, Senior! This year is all about you and celebrating your hard work but remember: there's still plenty of work to be done. Use this checklist to make sure you are on track for graduation day.

- ❑ **Make sure you are taking appropriately challenging courses**
 - While colleges will see your junior year grades while applying, they will also see your senior ones when you send in your final transcript. You want to show them you aren't slacking with the finish line in sight.
- ❑ **Keep all of your grades above a C**
 - Some postsecondary programs may ask you to submit your first semester grades from senior year before they decide whether or not to admit you. Being able to show them strong grades improves your chances of admission. Also, strong grades improve your chances of earning merit scholarships, both from the program you are applying to and from private scholarships.
- ❑ **Visit colleges as necessary and finalize your list of schools**
 - Visit schools during your first semester. This will help you narrow your final list of schools to 6-8 that are perfect for you. Don't be afraid to stop in the College and Career Center to see Mrs. Murdock if you need help with this.
- ❑ **Retake the SAT, if necessary**
 - If you are not happy with your score on the SAT from your junior year, try retaking the test or consider taking the ACT instead. The vast majority of colleges accept both tests, so taking the test you're most comfortable with can improve your odds of getting into the schools you prefer. Stronger SAT and ACT scores can also mean more merit scholarship money. Just make sure you complete any retakes of either test by December of your senior year to maintain your college application timeline.
- ❑ **Finalize plans to continue with your extracurricular activities in college**
 - Speak with Mrs. Murdock about the NCAA and NAIA Clearinghouses as soon as possible if you are an athlete. Check in with her to help see if your college or university has a club or activity similar to one you participated in during high school.
- ❑ **Finally, take charge of the application process**
 - Remember that whether you go to a 2-year school, 4-year school, or a trade school, you are working for **your** future. Make sure you are acting in your best interests and are driving the process forward, not just reacting to what is happening.