

12

12th Grade Checklist

**NEXT
STEPS**
IDAHO

This is YOUR year. We know there's still so much to do, but this is the year it all pays off. Soon enough, you'll have an exciting decision to make about what's next.



FALL

Organize your senior year calendar.

Create a tracker to stay organized. Include deadlines for admissions, financial aid, and scholarships. Note when you submit each form and confirm with your counselor that transcripts, test scores and recommendations have all been properly submitted.

Visit schools this fall.

Now is a great time to plan a campus visit because classes are in session and you are better able to meet and talk with students and professors. Call ahead to schedule tours, appointments, and even an overnight stay.

Finalize your college list.

Use the information you've gathered from college visits, interviews, and your own research to decide which schools you will apply to.

Ask for letters of recommendation.

Think about who knows you best: your accomplishments, the challenges you've faced, your unique strengths and personality traits. Decide whom you're going to ask and give them plenty of notice.

Take the SAT or ACT again if you need to.

You may need a higher score to meet admission requirements or to be eligible for certain scholarships. Or you may be taking the test for the first time if you did not take it last year.

Focus on financial aid opportunities.

The downtime after applications have been sent is a great time to seek out extra money for school.



WINTER

Make sure your family is prepared for the financial aid process.

Your parents will need to prepare their taxes long before the April 15 deadline, since you will need that information to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

Tackle the FAFSA.

The first step to getting grants or loans from the federal government, state government, or institutions is to fill out the FAFSA. Be ready to spend a couple of hours gathering the documents you need and filling out the form completely. The time spent will be worth it.



SPRING

Not heading to college next year?

Consider a technical training or apprenticeship program or a career in the military, where you can acquire career skills.

Complete the financial aid process.

Remember to think about the net cost of college: the difference between the "sticker" price (full cost) to attend a specific college, minus any grants and scholarships you've been awarded.

Decision time!

After you receive letters of acceptance and financial aid awards, decide which school or program you'll attend and then follow through on your post-acceptance tasks.

Reflect. Be proud. Celebrate!

Go out feeling good about your senior year with good grades and great memories.

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