

My **SENIOR YEAR FINANCIAL AID**

Checklist

AUG—DEC

ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

- Take challenging courses in core academic subjects and stay on track to complete state-required curriculum for college admission requirements
- Take the ACT and maximize my score ASAP
- Attend school visits by college admissions reps
- Narrow down the list of colleges being considered and apply to top 3-5 college choices
- Visit college campuses and talk to Financial Aid while there

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Stay involved in school and community-based activities
- Ask teachers, counselors, and employers for recommendation letters to include with scholarship applications
- Apply for institutional scholarships and meet the deadlines for applications
- If eligible, begin my Gates Millennium and Dell Scholarship applications
- Review and apply for national scholarships at www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com

FINANCIAL AID

- Estimate my federal financial aid eligibility with the FAFSA4caster at www.studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate
- Estimate college costs using each college's Net Price Calculator
- Begin collecting wage and income information for the FAFSA

JAN—FEB

ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

- Attend school visits by college admissions reps
- Begin a comparison chart of the schools I get admitted to
- Attend school visits by financial aid administrators
- Review housing options and save for the deposit

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Research and apply for local scholarships
- Continue applying for national scholarships

FINANCIAL AID

- File taxes ASAP
- Check for a local College Goal Sunday event in my area for help completing my FAFSA at www.collegegoal.org
- Apply for the FAFSA at www.fafsa.gov
- Communicate any special circumstances to each college's financial aid office

MAR—MAY

ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

- Compare the pros/cons for each college
- CHOOSE MY COLLEGE
- Sign up for orientation at my chosen college
- Study and take the Advanced Placement (AP) exams
- Send my final transcript after graduation

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Complete the Kansas Board of Regents Scholarships Applications
★ www.kansasregents.org/scholarships_and_grants
- Continue applying for local scholarships
- Continue applying for national scholarships
- Send thank you notes to donors and organizations that award scholarships to me

FINANCIAL AID

- Submit any requested documents to each college
- Review and compare my financial aid award offers from each college
- Contact your college's financial aid office with any questions
- Research loans offered and other financial aid options, if necessary
- Accept/decline my financial aid award offers

STUDENT LOANS

Helpful Hints to Borrow Wisely

- ★ Educational loans can be useful to pay for college, but be sure to borrow **ONLY** enough to cover necessary educational expenses
- ★ Don't borrow more than what is reasonably affordable to repay each month based on expected income—view earning potential at www.bls.gov/oco and www.onetonline.org



www.kasfaa.org

My JUNIOR YEAR FINANCIAL AID

Checklist

AUG—DEC

ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

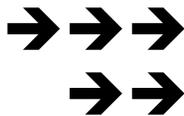
- Take challenging courses in core academic subjects and stay on track to complete state-required curriculum for college admission requirements. Colleges look for:
 - * Challenging coursework
 - * A strong GPA
 - * Involvement in extracurricular activities such as sports, volunteer work, or church
- Request a catalog and admission information about a variety of colleges and universities
- Go to college fairs and college-preparation presentations by college representatives
- Explore career options and their earning potential in the Occupational Outlook Handbook at www.bls.gov/oco
- Sign up for the PSAT and practice, practice, practice

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Stay involved in school and community-based activities
- Dare to dream—take on a new leadership role
- Apply for institutional scholarships (Don't miss deadlines!)
- Review and apply for national scholarships at www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com

FINANCIAL AID

- Estimate my federal financial aid eligibility with the FAFSA4caster at www.studentaid.ed.gov/fafsa/estimate



SAT...ACT...PSAT

Helpful Hints to Score Well

- * Register in advance to give yourself time to prepare appropriately
- * Take advantage of test-prep opportunities through your high school, online, or through colleges
- * Eat a healthy breakfast the morning of the test and get several good nights of rest in the days before the test



JAN—MAY

ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

- Visit college campuses (and talk to Financial Aid while I'm there)
- Narrow my college choices to 5-7 schools
- Ask your teachers or community leaders for recommendations for professionals who you can job-shadow for a day
- Take the ACT and practice, practice, practice
- Talk to parents/family about my goals after high school

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Begin drafting a scholarship essay
- Ask teachers, counselors, and employers for recommendation letters to include with scholarship applications
- Review and apply for local scholarships geared toward juniors
- Review and apply for national scholarships at www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com

FINANCIAL AID

- Estimate college costs using each college's Net Price Calculator

JUNE—JULY

ADMISSIONS & COLLEGE PLANNING

- Visit college campuses and talk to Financial Aid while I'm there
- Narrow college choices to 5-7 schools
- Begin applying to colleges

SCHOLARSHIPS

- Prepare a second draft of your scholarship essay
- Visit www.college.gov and click on "how to pay" to see how other young people paid for college
- Review and apply for national scholarships at www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com

FINANCIAL AID

- Visit www.college.gov and click on "how to pay" to see how other young people paid for college
- Review www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov/guide for different ways to pay for college
- Save money from my summer job to pay for college applications and college costs



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