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 Courswork Completed
  - A strong GPA
  - Involvement in extracurricular activities such as volunteer work, sports, organizations, or church.
- Explore career options and their earning potential. Find information in the Occupational Outlook Handbook at: www.bls.gov/oco

Scholarships
- Stay involved in school and community-based activities.
- Dare to dream - take on a new leadership role.
- Apply for scholarships for high school students if I am taking any college courses this school year. **Don’t miss the deadlines!**

Financial Aid
- Get an estimate of how much Federal Student Aid I could be eligible for at www.studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/
- Save money from my summer job to pay for college applications and college costs.

HELPFUL RESOURCES AT WWW.STUDENTAID.GOV
How Financial Aid Works:
www.studentaid.gov/h/understand-aid/how-aid-works

FSA ID Credentials
- Students and parents will both need their own FSA ID.
- Use an email address I will always have access to. School assigned emails will eventually expire.
  
  Student:
  Username: _____________  Password: _____________
  Parent:
  Username: _____________  Password: _____________

Compliments of: www.kasfaa.org
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 — the sooner, the better.
☐ Attend campus visits at schools of interest. Be sure to visit with Financial Aid about FAFSA, Scholarships, and other financial opportunities.
☐ Narrow down the list of colleges I’m considering and apply to top 3-5 college choices. *Be aware of deadlines.*

Scholarships
☐ Stay involved in school and community-based activities.
☐ Research and apply for institutional, community, and state scholarships. Create a list with deadlines and requirements.
☐ Review and apply for national scholarships at [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com)
☐ Ask teachers, counselors, and employers for recommendation letters to include with scholarship applications.

Financial Aid
☐ Apply for FAFSA as early as October 1st. Use my FSA ID to log in to studentaid.gov and apply.
☐ Follow-up with the institutions I send my FAFSA to. Check if there are further steps before my eligibility can be determined.

Jan - Mar

Admissions & College Planning
☐ Attend final college visits.
☐ Create a comparison chart of schools I get admitted to.
☐ Review housing options and save for the deposits.
*Apply for housing as early as possible.

Scholarships
☐ Continue submitting scholarship applications.
☐ Complete FAFSA by April 1st if applying for KBOR scholarships/grants.

Financial Aid
☐ Continue working with Financial Aid Offices to assure my file is complete.
☐ Communicate if I have experienced any special circumstances that have created a change in my family’s financial situation since the tax year used on the application.

Apr - May

Admissions & College Planning
☐ CHOOSE MY COLLEGE.
☐ Sign up for orientation/enrollment day.
☐ Study and take Advanced Placement (AP) exams.
☐ Send official High School transcript once final grades and graduation date are posted.

Scholarships
☐ Check with my chosen institution if I am eligible to apply for the Kansas Promise Scholarship.
☐ Complete the KBOR Scholarship App - Priority deadline May 1st: [www.kansasregents.org/scholarship_and_grants](http://www.kansasregents.org/scholarship_and_grants)
☐ Send thank you notes to donors and organizations that award scholarships to me.

Financial Aid
☐ Contact my college’s Financial Aid office with any questions.
☐ Confirm my Federal Student Aid eligibility has been determined.
☐ Review Financial Aid eligibility and research other financial aid options if necessary.
☐ Create a budget - tuition, books, fuel, food, insurance, etc.
☐ Accept financial aid offers as necessary. If accepting loans, complete Entrance Counseling and Master Promissory Note at [www.studentaid.gov](http://www.studentaid.gov)

STUDENT LOANS
Helpful Hints to Borrow Wisely
* Borrow ONLY enough to cover necessary educational expenses. These funds have to be repaid once I finish school or drop below half-time.
Visit [studentaid.gov/loan-simulator](http://studentaid.gov/loan-simulator) for an idea of what repayment will look like.
* Use Federal Direct Subsidized Loans first if I am borrowing any funds. These loans don’t start accruing interest until I finish school or drop below half-time.
* Create an account with my loan servicer right away and keep an eye on my loan status.

Compliments of:
[Kansas Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators](http://www.kasfaa.org)