College Admission Planning Checklist (Senior Year)

All Year	❏ Avoid Senioritis ❏ Continue Researching Careers and Schools That Interest You ❏ Participate in Extracurricular Activities and Volunteer in the Community ❏ Apply for scholarships ❏ Attend college representative meetings at your school as well as college night programs and college fairs ❏ Take a look at some college applications and consider all of the different pieces of information you will need to compile. ❏ Visit with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements. If you're ahead of schedule, consider taking courses at a local university or community college to get a jumpstart on college credit.

***September to November**	❏ **Arrange campus visits** to those schools that interest you most (OK to visit more than once)
	❏ **Finalize Essays**
	❏ Prepare a college living budget
	❏ Narrow down your list of colleges and begin to consider "safe," "reach," and "realistic" schools. Make sure you have the application and financial aid information for each school.
	❏ Take or Retake the ACT/SAT test in the Fall
	❏ Select the schools to which you will apply. Make a list of **deadlines for each school. Create a checklist and calendar to chart:**
	    o **Standardized test dates, registration deadlines, and fees**
	    o **College application due dates**
	    o **Financial aid application forms and deadlines**
	    o **Other materials you'll need for college applications (recommendations, transcripts, essays, etc.)**
	    o **Your high school's application processing deadlines**
	❏ **Apply for financial aid** by completing the FAFSA (and CSS Profiles if necessary) as soon as possible after Oct. 1st
	❏ Check and plan for spring classes that can or might earn you college credit – AP, PSEO, IB, College in the Schools (CIS)
	❏ Ask for recommendations from teachers, counselors, coaches, etc.
	❏ Complete your Activities, Athletic and Academic Profile
	❏ **Special Note Some colleges will have deadlines as early as this month. These would include rolling admission, priority, early decision, and early action deadlines.**
	    o **Finalize and send any early decision or early action applications due this month.** Have a parent, teacher, counselor, or other adult review the application before it is submitted.

***December to February**	❏ **Apply to at least four but no more than ten colleges** ❏ **Apply for School specific scholarships to those schools for which you applied** ❏ Watch the mail for your Student Aid Report (SAR)—it should arrive four weeks after the FAFSA is filed. Review your Student Aid Report (SARS) for accuracy ❏ **Ask your guidance office in January to send first semester transcripts to schools where you applied.** ❏ **Don't slack in the classroom. The college that you do attend will want to see your second semester transcript. No Senioritis!**
***March to May**	❏ Acceptance letters and financial aid offers will start to arrive. Review your acceptances, compare financial aid packages, and visit your final choices, especially if you haven't already. ❏ I've been admitted – Now you have to choose. **Making a decision by May 1 When you've made your college decision, notify your counselor and the colleges. Send in your deposit by the postmark date of May 1. If you've been offered financial aid, accept the offer and follow the instructions given. Also notify schools you will not attend of your decision.** ❏ **Send in any required forms and deposits (especially financial aid and housing)**
***Summer**	❏ Review orientation materials ❏ Attend an orientation session ❏ Register for classes ❏ Housing – check with the college for lists of what is provided by the school and what the school expects you to provide ❏ Contact your roommate ❏ **Have your final high school transcript sent to the colleges to which you've applied**