

Prepare for College with Our Senior Year Checklist

Fall



! Complete this list of to-dos in the fall to stay on track.

Done

Comments/
Concerns/Notes

Meet with your school counselor.

Meeting with your school counselor regularly ensures you're on track to achieve your postsecondary goals.

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Create a résumé.

Take the time to create a great **résumé**. It will be a record of your academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, volunteerism and work experiences since you started high school.

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Apply for scholarships.

Use the DSS **Delaware Scholarship Compendium** to find and apply for scholarships. Check monthly for new opportunities.

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Finalize Your List of Colleges.

Use the DSS **"Make Your College List"** organizer to narrow down your top 4-8 college choices that match your needs.

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Attend Career and College Fairs.

Attend career and college fairs in-person or virtually.

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Contact your references.

Provide a brag sheet and/or résumé to those you asked to write your letter(s) of recommendation at least one month before your first application deadline. Remember to send thank you notes.

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Happy Launch into Your Future Month

In October and November, your school will dedicate time to help you launch into college after high school. Our resources will help make your college processes easier.

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Apply to College

Begin applying to 8-10 colleges that are a best fit for you. Use the DSS **"How to Apply to College Guide"** to help you through the application and admissions journey. Take advantage of the DSS Application **Fee Waivers** to apply to over 40 colleges for free.

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Submit standardized test scores

Reminder: Decide if you should submit **your standardized test scores** to your colleges. Some schools have test-optional policies. Learn more **here**.

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Check your email!

For your applications, use your personal email account and check it regularly, including the junk mail folder, for communication from colleges.

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Complete the FAFSA.

The FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) opens October 1. Fill it out to maximize financial aid opportunities. For information and free FAFSA completion support, visit the **DSS FAFSA page**.

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Winter



! *Keep planning your success with these winter activities.*

Learn about admissions decisions.

Learn about different **admissions decisions** and next steps after you apply.

Done

Comments/
Concerns/Notes

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Continue to apply for scholarships.

Continue to research and apply for scholarships on the **Delaware Scholarship Compendium** (new scholarships are added each month). Also look into **state of Delaware scholarships**.

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Meet with your school counselor.

Talk with your school counselor to ensure you are on track for graduation and life after high school.

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Check your email.

Check your email regularly to ensure you do not miss communications from colleges.

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Spring



! *Finish your senior year strong with these spring activities.*

Compare Financial Aid Packages.

Learn about the different types of financial aid and use the DSS **Compare Financial Aid Award Letters** organizer to compare college costs and financial aid.

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Continue the scholarship search.

Continue to search and apply for scholarships. Three state of Delaware **scholarships** that you may be eligible for are due May 15.

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Happy Decision Day

Happy Decision Day on May 1. Make sure you have submitted your acceptance and made your deposit to attend the school of your choice.

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Submit the FAFSA on time!

Complete the **FAFSA** by May 15 to be eligible for state and federal student financial aid.

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Schedule a Health and Wellness visit.

Get required vaccinations through your school's Wellness Center before graduation.

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