

## SENIOR YEAR

- ✓ Meet with your guidance counselor to confirm you are on track to graduate and to fulfill college admission requirements.
- ✓ Sign up for the ACT (if you didn't take it your junior year or are not satisfied with your score). Repeat as necessary or desired.
- ✓ Continue to challenge yourself and take solid elective courses.
- ✓ Keep up the grades as second semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.
- ✓ Attend college fairs in your area.
- ✓ Visit college campuses. Attend events at colleges you are interested in. Narrow down choices.
- ✓ Make decisions about early decision or early action programs.
- ✓ Explore careers and job opportunities in those careers. Consider job shadowing those jobs or careers you are interested in.
- ✓ Ask for personal references from teachers, school counselors, or employers at least two weeks before application deadlines.
- ✓ Check with guidance counselor about local scholarships. Check back periodically on the latest scholarships.
- ✓ Attend a financial aid workshop with your parents.
- ✓ Apply for financial aid (as soon after January 1<sup>st</sup> as possible).
- ✓ Complete and submit college applications as well as scholarship applications prior to deadlines.
- ✓ Request transcripts and gather letters of recommendation.
- ✓ Register for a Federal Student Aid PIN.
- ✓ Work with parents to complete and submit the FAFSA.
- ✓ Visit colleges on your "short list".
- ✓ Consider college acceptances; compare financial aid packages offered. Make a decision.
- ✓ Make informed decisions about student loans if you are borrowing money.

# PREPARING FOR LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

## A CHECKLIST COVERING FRESHMAN THROUGH SENIOR YEAR

*Sponsored by the Academic Booster Club*

Updated 11/2015

## FRESHMAN YEAR

- ✓ Take challenging classes, like honors/AP classes, algebra, & a foreign language. These classes prepare you for the ACT and look great on college applications. Become familiar with college entrance requirements.
- ✓ Start/continue saving for college/trade school.
- ✓ Meet with your high school counselor at least once a year. Together, create a yearly schedule for meeting graduation requirements.
- ✓ Join/continue extra-curricular and co-curricular activities.
- ✓ Get involved with community-based and leadership-oriented activities.
- ✓ Explore and identify career fields of interest by researching online and by attending career fairs and other events.
- ✓ Keep a running list of accomplishments, awards, and recognitions beginning your freshman year to use in preparing a resume and college & work applications.

## SOPHOMORE YEAR

- ✓ Continue taking challenging high school courses and consider taking college courses, if eligible.
- ✓ Be sure to meet with your guidance counselor at least once your sophomore year.
- ✓ Explore what kind of education/training different occupations require.
- ✓ Start collecting college information.
- ✓ Continue saving for additional schooling.
- ✓ Consider your reasons for going to college and how they relate to your career interests.
- ✓ Research funding for college, including scholarships, grants, loans, etc.
- ✓ Reach out to mentors in your fields of interest.
- ✓ Consider job shadowing and research internships in areas of interest.



## JUNIOR YEAR

- ✓ Focus on your academic record. If your grades are not what you hoped, you can make up some ground. You can also show consistency by keeping up the good grades.
- ✓ Be sure to meet with your guidance counselor at least once. Ask for suggestions as to colleges or trade schools you should consider.
- ✓ Take the ASVAB which measures developed abilities and helps predict future academic and occupational success in the military.
- ✓ Attend an ACT preparation workshop or practice online, through workbooks, or with software to help you prepare.
- ✓ Take the ACT during the spring semester. You should be academically ready to take it by spring. If not satisfied, you can always retake it.
- ✓ Run for leadership positions in the organizations you are involved in.
- ✓ Begin visiting colleges or trade schools you may be interested in.
- ✓ Get to know the admission criteria for your top schools. Know where you are in relation to those requirements. Make the necessary adjustments.