



# 12th Grade

## COLLEGE PLANNING

*The following are things college bound seniors need to do to plan and prepare for college. Use this checklist to help you stay focused and on track. Check items off as they are completed.*

### Get Organized



**Take the ACT/SAT, if necessary.** Unless you know you don't need to submit test scores, take the ACT or SAT if you haven't already. For information and to register, go to [act.org](http://act.org) or [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org).



**Set up a master calendar.** Use this calendar to help you keep track of test dates, college visits, application deadlines, and college events at your school.



**Have a folder for college information.** In this folder, keep copies of test scores and applications, notes on college visits, and anything else that's important.



**Plan college visits.** If you haven't visited a college you are seriously considering, schedule a visit as soon as possible.



**Meet with your counselor.** Talk to your counselor about your college choices, possible majors, and financial aid.

## Your To-Do List



**Discuss college costs.** Talk to your parents about the cost of the college(s) you're considering. Also discuss how your college education will be paid for.



**Decide where to apply.** Determine what's needed for each application (essay, transcript, recommendations).



**Complete applications.** Be aware of deadlines! Make sure you give your counselor and anyone who's writing a recommendation plenty of time.

*For tips on how to complete an impressive application, watch this short video.*



**Complete the FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). *This is important!* For information, go to [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov).

## You're On Your Way



**Make the decision.** Compare all acceptance and financial aid offers very carefully. Once you've decided which college you will attend, complete the necessary forms.



**Follow through.** Inform the college(s) you're not going to attend of your decision, tell your counselor where to send your final transcript, and thank anyone who helped you along the way.