

College & Scholarship Checklist

Maintain Focus



September/October

- ☐ **Meet with your counselor** at the beginning of the year to talk about your post high school plan.
- ☐ **Make sure you are taking the right classes** to graduate college-ready, including courses in language arts, math, science, world languages or social science. Scan this poster's QR code to link to a printable worksheet to help keep track.
- ☐ **Earn college credits** in high school through Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Running Start, College in the High School, and/or tech prep.
- ☐ **Get good grades** (mainly As and Bs) and get involved at school and with extracurricular programs, such as TRiO, College Success Foundation Achievers and GEAR UP.
- ☐ **Take the PSAT/NMSQT** to practice for the SAT and qualify for scholarships and programs associated with the National Merit Scholarship Program.

November/December

- ☐ **Research your top colleges.** Be sure to learn about financial aid, admission requirements, scholarships and deadlines.
- ☐ **Attend college fairs** (including the National College Fair in the fall) and college information events. You can also visit colleges during winter break to get a feel for the campus.
- ☐ **Find a SAT/ACT prep course.** A free website is number2.com. Register to take spring SAT/ACT exams for college admission. Ask your counselor about getting a fee waiver to reduce the costs of the SAT/ACT.
- ☐ **Register for** any other standardized state test required for high school graduation and college admission.

January/February



- ☐ **Ask your counselor** to complete a transcript review for your winter quarter.
- ☐ **Create or update** your scholarship profile on theWashBoard.org. This will help with your scholarship search and application process during your senior year, and some scholarships are available to juniors!
- ☐ **If you signed up** for the College Bound Scholarship, confirm your address with the Washington Student Achievement Council at wsac.wa.gov or 1.888.535.0747.
- ☐ **Attend a local financial aid** information night to become familiar with applying for financial aid.
- ☐ **Get an estimate** of your eligibility for federal student aid by using FAFSA 4Caster at fafsa4caster.ed.gov.

March/April



- ☐ **Create a resume** for job searching this summer and start building your college resume.
- ☐ **Begin to narrow the list** of colleges you are considering attending. If you can, schedule visits to help you decide which ones to apply to in the fall.
- ☐ **Participate in enrichment** and leadership opportunities. Spring is a big time for events and event-planning opportunities in high school.

May/June



- ☐ **Explore careers** using careerbridge.wa.gov and mapyourcareer.org.
- ☐ **Get job skills** in high school by considering internships, job shadowing, Junior ROTC or other community service volunteer work, especially over the summer.
- ☐ **Stay sharp.** You can prevent summer learning loss by reading books, reviewing classroom material from the school year and planning for the upcoming school year.
- ☐ **Look for summer academic programs** that offer college credit, such as ACAP (Accounting Career Awareness Program), summer school and U-DOC for those interested in healthcare careers.

