

Parent Checklist for College-Bound Seniors

2026–2027 College Planning Timeline

Help your student stay on track by completing the following milestones throughout senior year.

✓ **August**

- ☐ Help your student select their **Top 5 colleges or universities**.
- ☐ Review admissions requirements and important deadlines for each school.

✓ **September**

- ☐ Begin preparing and practicing audition pieces (if applicable).
- ☐ Research each school's academic programs, campus life, and admission requirements.

✓ **October**

- ☐ Complete and submit the **Common Application** (or individual college applications).
- ☐ Encourage your student to take SAT/ACT practice tests or schedule testing if needed.

✓ **November**

- ☐ Complete and submit the **FAFSA** as soon as it opens.

✓ **December**

- ☐ Schedule college auditions (if required).
- ☐ Finalize and polish audition pieces.

✓ **January**

- ☐ Attend scheduled college auditions.
- ☐ Submit all remaining college applications before deadlines.

✓ **February**

- ☐ Watch for college acceptance letters and financial aid notifications.
- ☐ Review admission offers together.

March

- ☐ Compare college options and make a final decision.
- ☐ Schedule campus tours or admitted student visits, if needed.

April

- ☐ Secure housing and complete room & board paperwork.
- ☐ Continue applying for scholarships and outside financial aid.

May

- ☐ Request and send final high school transcripts to the chosen college.
- ☐ Celebrate your senior's accomplishments and prepare for graduation!

Helpful Tip: Create a folder (digital or paper) to keep copies of applications, financial aid documents, scholarship information, passwords, and important deadlines in one place.