

# SENIOR

## Post-Secondary Planning Checklist

Senior year is a busy and important time in your post-secondary planning process. Senior year is when you wrap up your high school experience and try to hit the mark on certain ACT, SAT, and ASVAB scores you need for your first college choice. It is when you narrow down your options of which college, university, or technical/vocational program you might choose. It is also time to finish strong with good grades to increase your gpa, line up letters of recommendation, apply for scholarships, fill out the FAFSA, and much more.

In your school email, please continue to look for and read the MHS This Week newsletter email by Mrs.Hilton every Sunday night and look for the Counselor's Corner for updated information. Your counselors are here to help you navigate this process and help answer any questions.

### AUGUST/SEPTEMBER

- ☐ With your Parent(s) **Fill out the FAFSA**, beginning October 1st. Please go to [studentaid.gov](http://studentaid.gov) to begin.
- ☐ Develop a **List of 3- 8 Colleges**. Carefully and honestly consider your interests, strengths, and weaknesses. Think about college visits. If you are looking for university-sponsored merit scholarships, consider that to be around the top 10-15% of the college's applicant pool. Some helpful websites include: [www.cappex.com](http://www.cappex.com), [www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org](http://www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org), [www.mycollegeoptions.org](http://www.mycollegeoptions.org) and [www.collegeanswer.com](http://www.collegeanswer.com). Also, check out MHS Canvas-Scholarship info.
- ☐ **Explore the websites of Colleges** that interest you. Learn about their admissions requirements. Pay extra attention to Early Decision, Early Action, and Preferred Application Deadlines. Check your school email address for an invite to set up your SCOIR account. If necessary register for the ACT or SAT at [www.act.org](http://www.act.org) or [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org).
- ☐ Double Check your **Senior Class Schedule** that you are taking the classes you need for graduation, and post-high school planning.
- ☐ Request your **Senior Transcript** and check it for accuracy. Closely review your course and grades. Create a list of all courses and grades you would like for a reference letter.
- ☐ Clean up **Social Networking Pages** and use only a professional sounding email account.
- ☐ **Personal Essay** or Senior Autobiography. While you are looking over applications to your first choice colleges, begin thinking about potential topics for your personal essay.
- ☐ When **College Representatives** visit, remember to dress for success and come prepared with questions about their campus and their programs. Send a thank you note afterwards to the representatives.
- ☐ **Take leadership roles** in clubs, activities, and volunteer organization and continue to update your high school resume.
- ☐ **Request Letters of Recommendation** from teachers, school counselors, coaches, and/or employers. For teachers and counselors, please be sure to request letters through your SCOIR account and include a completed 'brag sheet'.
- ☐ **Research Financial Aid and Scholarships**. Review the test, GPA, and community service requirements for each scholarship. Check and see if the college you're interested in requires a separate financial aid or scholarship application.
- ☐ If you are a collegiate-bound **student-athlete**, register with [www.ncaaclearinghouse.net](http://www.ncaaclearinghouse.net) and/or [www.naia.org](http://www.naia.org), if you have not already done so.
- ☐ Take Advantage of **College Fair**. Blount County College Fair is at Maryville College, **September 28th, 2022**.

## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

- ☐ **Visit Campuses** and interview with college representatives if appropriate.
- ☐ Move your tile in **Scoir** to request transcripts.
- ☐ College essay needs to get in shape. Get feedback from teachers if you need.
- ☐ Do NOT let your grades slide.
- ☐ **Submit the FAFSA** at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), as early as October 1.
- ☐ Make sure you have submitted ALL components of your applications if you are applying to colleges with November deadlines and early decision or preferred application.
- ☐ Continue researching scholarships
- ☐ Attend **Senior Success Night**. At this special event students and parents will have opportunities to receive help on completing the FAFSA as well as meet local employers and community college representatives.
- ☐ Do NOT put off applying to schools with rolling admissions or late deadlines: available spaces fill up.

## DECEMBER/JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- ☐ **Complete applications** for regular admissions.
- ☐ Make sure **test scores** have been sent to colleges that require them.
- ☐ Confirm **Letters of Recommendations** have been sent.
- ☐ **FAFSA Night** in the Ed Harmon Room Thursday, January 13th, 4:00-6:00pm.
- ☐ If you are accepted to a school through early decision, be sure to follow directions carefully. Submit required forms, and notify the other schools to which you applied your decision.
- ☐ Continue to keep track of all deadlines and application components.
- ☐ Continue to research Scholarships. Apply for scholarships well in advance of deadlines.

## MARCH

- ☐ If you submitted the FAFSA, you should receive the **Student Aid Report (SAR)**. Carefully look it over for accuracy. Errors can cost you thousands of dollars.
- ☐ **Keep your grades high**. Colleges can revoke offers of admission if your grades take a nosedive senior year.
- ☐ Some acceptance letters may arrive. Compare financial aid offers and visit campus before making a decision.
- ☐ Continue applying for appropriate scholarships.

## APRIL/MAY

- ☐ Keep track of all acceptances, rejections, and waitlists.
- ☐ If you have ruled out any colleges that you have been accepted to, notify them of your plans. This is a courtesy to other applicants, and it will help the colleges manage their waitlists and extend the correct number of acceptance letters.
- ☐ If you know the college you are attending, go to their accepted students open house (if offered).
- ☐ Keep Working. An acceptance letter does not mean you can stop working.
- ☐ Watch **Deposit Deadlines**. Most schools' deadlines are May 1st. Do not be late.
- ☐ Have your **Final Transcript** sent to Colleges.
- ☐ Send Thank you letters to everyone who helped you in the application process. Let them know where you intend on going.
- ☐ **Graduate** May 12th, 2023. 7:30pm

**CONGRATULATIONS!**