

Journey to College

Preparing for College: Senior Year Checklist

August

- Start the school year out strong to prepare for college and a career.
- Request admission information from your top college choices. Check the schools out online or in person during campus visits.
- Be sure to take the ACT and/or SAT. Retake to improve your score.
- Sign up for the Journey to College Monthly Reminder at journeytocollege.mo.gov.
- Follow Journey to College on social media for scholarship and other important information.

October

- Be aware of college application due dates and financial aid deadlines.
- Complete your FAFSA as soon as possible after Oct. 1. Participate in FAFSA Frenzy for free help.
- Finalize your college admissions essays, auditions, portfolios, and writing samples.

December

- Compare college programs and costs.
- Research and apply for college, local, and private scholarships.
- Consider job shadowing for a closer look at career options.

February

- Check into taking Advanced Placement (AP) or College-Level Examination Program (CLEP) exams.
- Ask your counselor to send your transcripts to your top college choices.
- Review college financing offers. Call the financial aid office with questions.

April

- Review, compare, sign, and return admissions and financial aid forms.
- Make any deposits required to enroll for the fall semester.
- Finish AP exams and final projects. Study for tests and end the school year strong.

June

- Plan for college orientation, housing and transportation.
- Prepare a realistic budget you can follow throughout college.
- Follow up with the financial aid office at your college to ensure all paperwork is complete.

September

- Create your FSA ID at fsaid.ed.gov.
- Take advantage of Apply Missouri resources to find your best fit for college.
- Attend college fairs and financial aid events in your area.
- Ask your counselor about local scholarship opportunities, resume writing, and recommendation letters.
- Set up a Student Workspace and State Financial Aid Portal account at journeytocollege.mo.gov.

November

- Go on campus visits and meet with admissions and financial aid advisors to help you narrow or finalize your college choice.
- Once you file your FAFSA, watch for your Student Aid Report. Check it for accuracy and make any necessary corrections.

January

- Complete your FAFSA by Feb. 1 to meet the priority deadline for the Access Missouri Grant.
- Submit IRS tax transcripts and other verification forms to the financial aid office, if requested.

March

- If you haven't already done so, submit your FAFSA by April 1 to meet the final Access Missouri Grant deadline.
- Develop a plan to pay for college.
- Be aware of college registration, housing, and other deadlines.

May

- Try to make your final college choice by May 1, National Decision Day.
- Finalize summer job plans and save a portion of your earnings.
- Be sure to notify the colleges where you were accepted but will not be attending.

July

- Finalize housing and move-in dates, and transportation.
- Be sure you are enrolled in the required number of credit hours to qualify for scholarships and other financial aid.
- Consider taking 15 or more credit hours a semester to graduate on time.



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