

Getting into College Checklist - College, Career & Testing

9th Grade

First Semester of 9th Grade

- ?? Realize how important your grades are while in high school. They are the one of the most important criteria for admission to a college/university, and colleges look at your grades from your 9th grade year!
- ?? Stop by to talk with Mr. Vande Loo about planning for high school classes. You will want to take demanding classes since colleges look for students who can take challenging classes and do well.
- ?? Start looking into activities/organizations, or extracurricular activities at SCCS to be a part of. Additionally, look for activities/organizations, or volunteer work to be a part of outside of school.
- ?? Use your College Education Daily planner to note important dates or activities for college and career planning

Second Semester of 9th Grade

- ?? Start researching about different colleges/universities, and talking with friends, family, or others you know about schools.
- ?? Start thinking about areas you may be interesting in for a Major in college, or for a career path.
- ?? Talk to your Counselor about taking AP classes next year
- ?? Look into potential Summer School programs on college campuses or elsewhere, or for jobs or volunteer opportunities for over the summer

10th Grade

First Semester of 10th Grade

- ?? Meet with your counselor to talk about your college plans. Review your class schedule to make sure you've enrolled in challenging classes, and classes that help prepare you for college or a career. Colleges prefer 4 years of English, History, Math, and Science.
- ?? Start using your College Ed. planner and note or mark important dates and deadlines
- ?? Get involved in extracurricular activities within SCCS, or get involved in other organizations/volunteer work outside of school
- ?? Create an account on www.collegeboard.com, write down your password and username to remember it, and use this resource to search potential colleges or careers
- ?? Attend any college fairs, or college visits in the area or at SCCS
- ?? Consider taking the PSAT in order to prepare for the SAT exam. The PSAT exam is given in October, and can also be taken your 11th grade year.

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Second Semester of 10th Grade

- ?? Talk with your counselor about taking SAT II Subject tests at the end of your 10th grade year while the information is still fresh in your head. Such subjects may include Biology, and History.
- ?? Start looking at college costs, and start looking at how much you will need for college
- ?? Start asking friends, family, and others you know about colleges/universities to find out more information
- ?? Think about visiting a college campus of schools you might be interested in and talking with the international admissions officer.
- ?? Think about attending Summer School on a college campus to improve academic skills and get an idea of college life, or lining up a job, internship or volunteer work for work experience.
- ?? Sign up for AP courses for next year
- ?? Study for the AP course tests for this year

Summer Before 11th Grade

- ?? Visit college campuses
- ?? Make summer reading list to improve on reading, reading comprehension, and overall verbal skills
- ?? Work, volunteer, study! Stay involved!

11th Grade

First Semester of 11th Grade

- ?? Make goal to achieve your best! This is the final full school year colleges will see on your transcript!
- ?? Start research into possible majors/careers that interest you
- ?? Start researching colleges/universities you may want to apply to
- ?? Start researching potential scholarships for college
- ?? Create an account on www.collegeboard.com and use this website to explore career options and other information related to attending college.
- ?? Get involved! Be part of an extracurricular activity, or organization here at school or outside of school.

December, 11th Grade

- ?? Do well on your mid term exams! These grades will really impact your college applications
- ?? ACT exam on December 9th for all Juniors
- ?? Take Mid exams
- ?? Have a great vacation and get refreshed!

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January, 11th Grade

- ?? January 5th - Registration deadline for ACT on February 10th
- ?? Start making list of schools you are interested in attending
- ?? Start looking into Summer School programs for summer before Senior Year
- ?? Continue researching for scholarships

February, 11th Grade

- ?? ACT exams at SCCS February 10th
- ?? Start applying for Summer School programs for this coming summer

March, 11th Grade

- ?? Register by March 29th for May 5th SAT I & II exams (register @ www.collegeboard.com)
- ?? Be sure to finish school strong. This is the last full year colleges look at!
- ?? Start studying for SAT exams if you're going to take them this semester. You should be studying 2-3 hours per week

April, 11th Grade

- ?? Pay for AP exams by April 1st
- ?? Study for AP exams. The results will affect admission decisions
- ?? Register by April 27th for June 2nd SAT
- ?? Study and maintain grades for all classes. You should be on an incline in grades at this point
- ?? Study for SAT exams
- ?? Think about teachers you may want to get a letter of recommendation from

May, 11th Grade

- ?? SAT I & II exams May 5th at 7:45 AM Sharp!
- ?? AP exams
- ?? Study for finals. Grades are critical for admissions. GPA, level of curriculum, and standardized test scores are the most important criteria for admissions
- ?? Make preliminary meeting with Mr. Vande Loo. Please stop by the Counseling Office to make an appointment
- ?? Study for SAT exams.
- ?? Get letters of recommendation from those teachers who may be leaving at the end of the year, and will not be returning
- ?? Register for the most challenging courses for next year. Colleges like to see students taking the most challenging classes they can during their senior year.

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June, 11th Grade

- ?? SAT exam June 2nd at 8:00 AM
- ?? Study for SAT exams if your going to retake them or just take them for the first time during the first semester of your senior year
- ?? Raise verbal scores by outside reading with a dictionary. College Board suggests students read books outside of the school setting often.
- ?? Take SAT practice tests online (www.sparknotes.com) or look up SAT info on www.collegeboard.com
- ?? Explore colleges/universities online through either Princeton Review or College Board. Open an account and save info. Additional research websites for school info are all over the net
- ?? Choose 15-20 colleges that are strong possibilities. Make sure you fit the profile of students accepted. You can have one “reach”, 5-6 mid-range, and 2 safety schools on the final list
- ?? Discuss finances with parents. Get an exact amount that can be spent on tuition, room, and board.
- ?? Visit college/university campuses that you may be interested in. Call the college admissions office to set up a tour. This will really help!!!
- ?? Work, volunteer in area that you may be interested in for your future

July, after 11th Grade

- ?? Narrow down the college list to approximately 10 possibilities.
- ?? Look at their application and download the personal essay prompts
- ?? Do journals in response to the essay prompts
- ?? Keep reading and practicing for the SAT
- ?? Visit college/university campuses
- ?? Work, volunteer in area that you may be interested in for your future
- ?? Download applications to those colleges you are most interested in
- ?? Think about taking the TOEFL over the summer

12th Grade

August, 12th Grade

- ?? Develop list of 6-10 schools by tier level to which you'll be applying
- ?? Start developing one polished application essay
- ?? Register online at www.collegeboard.com for the fall SAT I & II tests:
 - ?? By Sept. 12th for October 14th
 - ?? By Sept 29th for November 4th
 - ?? By Nov 1st for December 2nd
- ?? Spend 2-3 hours per week practicing for the SAT's:
 - ?? You can take practice tests at www.sparknotes.com
- ?? Find 2-3 Teachers who will write letters of recommendation for you
- ?? Register for TOEFL's at www.toefl.org

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September, 12th Grade

- ?? Practice for the SAT for at least 2 hours per week
- ?? Solidify list of schools applying to. Cut down to those you will be applying to and those you won't. Download application
- ?? Start working on essays found on applications
- ?? Check all application and financial aid deadlines of schools interested in
- ?? Submit a folder including personal information about yourself to those teachers who will be writing you a letter of recommendation. Include the following:
 - Letter indicating relevant personal info/traits
 - Schools to which you are attending
 - Deadlines for when letters will be collected
- ?? Register online Sept. 12th for October 14th SAT

October, 12th Grade

- ?? Continue to practice for SAT I & II unless taken already
- ?? Continue working on essays and have some completed and polished
- ?? Continue working on short answer questions for applications
- ?? Register for November 4th SAT by Sept 29th & TOEFL exam if needed
- ?? SAT exam Saturday, October 14th at 8:00 AM
- ?? Submit any mid-year or counselor reports to Mr. Vande Loo in a folder
- ?? Register for TOEFL on October 28th no later than October 21st
- ?? Register for TOEFL on November 4th no later than October 28th
- ?? TOEFL Exam October 28th at SCCS

November, 12th Grade

- ?? TOEFL Exam November 4th at SCCS
- ?? Make an appointment with Mr. Vande Loo if you need assistance on the FAFSA
- ?? Collect information needed to fill out FAFSA documents
- ?? SAT exam November 4th at 8:00 AM
- ?? Register for December 2nd SAT by November 1st & for TOEFL exam if needed
- ?? Start collecting letters of recommendation
- ?? Polish off most applications and essays by this time
- ?? Submit all mid-year and all counselor reports to Mr. Vande Loo in a folder by November 15th at the latest

December, 12th Grade

- ?? SAT exam December 2nd at 8:00 AM
- ?? Study for Finals
- ?? Turn in request for transcripts into the office by December 1st
- ?? Continue to work with parents to complete all financial aid forms
- ?? Send off applications in December and no later than before December break if possible

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January & February, 12th Grade

- ?? Apply for financial aid with FAFSA form if eligible. You can start sending this in on January 1st, 2007
- ?? Stay in contact with the schools you've applied to. Make sure they have received all the information they need, and send in that information you may have forgotten or they had not received.

March, April, & May, 12th Grade

- ?? Start receiving acceptance letters from schools
- ?? Review financial options to those schools accepted at, and decide which one you will attend.
- ?? Send in letter of intent indicating you will attend that specific school.