11TH GRADE CHECKLIST

For Students :

ALL YEAR:

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- Explore careers and earning potential with the Occupational Outlook Handbook search tool: <u>https://www.bls.gov/ooh/</u>. For an interactive tool, try this career search: <u>https://studentaid.gov/</u> <u>resources/prepare-for-college/students/career-</u> <u>search</u>
- Narrow your college list to at least 3 (reach, match, safety) and make sure you understand the admission requirements and costs of attendance: <u>https://nces.ed.gov/collegenavigator/</u>
 - Go to **college fairs** and presentations hosted by college representatives.

FALL:

Take the **PSAT/NMSQT**. Take the test in 11th grade to qualify for scholarships and programs associated with the National Merit Scholarship Program. For more info visit:

https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/psatnmsqt-psat-10.

SPRING:

- **Register for and take exams for college admission**. The standardized tests that many colleges require are the SAT, the SAT Subject Tests, and the ACT. Check with colleges of interest to confirm what tests they require. Register for all tests in advance and allot yourself time to prepare appropriately! Talk to your high school counselor about the potential for fee waivers for these tests; you could be eligible to take these exams for free.
 - SAT Website:

https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat

- ACT Website: <u>https://www.act.org/</u>
- Use a free scholarship search (<u>https://student</u> <u>aid.gov/understand-aid/types/scholarships</u>). Some deadlines fall as early as the summer between 11th and 12th grades, so prepare now to submit applications soon.

It's getting real. College is right around the corner and now you need to start prepping according to semester and season. Don't fall behind this year, as it's just as important as senior year.

You can do this!

- Find out what **government financial aid** you can apply for, and how, in *Federal Student Aid at a Glance*: <u>https://studentaid.gov/sites/default/</u> <u>files/aid-glance-2019-20.pdf</u>
- Learn how to avoid scholarship scams and identity theft as you search for financial aid: <u>https://studentaid.gov/resources/scams</u>.
 NEVER pay for a scholarship search or for help completing the FAFSA. Don't divulge your personal information to anyone claiming to help complete scholarships or submit the FAFSA.

SUMMER (before Senior Year):

- Create a username and password called an FSA ID to confirm your identity when accessing your government financial aid information and electronically signing your federal student aid documents. Learn more about the FSA ID and create yours here: https://studentaid.gov/helpcenter/answers/article/how-to-create-fsa-idusername-password
 - Note: You must create your own FSA ID. If your parent creates it for you, it will cause confusion later and will slow down the financial aid application process. Watch this video about creating your FSA ID: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u>

v=K7ihhGk8mCY&feature=youtu.be

- Narrow down the list of colleges you are considering. Visit schools of interest. Ask about financial aid, scholarships, admission requirements, and deadlines.
- Decide whether to apply for admission under a particular college's **early decision, early action, or regular decision program**. Be sure to learn about the program deadlines and requirements.
- Use the FAFSA4caster financial aid estimator and compare the results to the actual costs at the colleges to which you will apply: https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/estimate
- Apply for scholarships. Your goal is to minimize the amount of loan funds so you have less to pay back later. Learn more at: <u>https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types/scholarships</u>

111H GRADE CHECKLIST

College is getting closer and you'll need to help your student consider colleges and learn more about financial aid and the FAFSA.

For Parents :

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Get in-depth information on **federal student aid programs**:

https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/types

Find out how the federal student aid application process works: <u>https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa</u>

Create your own FSA ID if you don't have one yet. The FSA ID is a username and password to use for such purposes as signing your student's Free Application for Federal Student Aid: <u>https://studentaid.gov/help-center/answers/article/</u><u>how-to-create-fsa-id-username-password</u>

 Note: You must create your own FSA ID. If your student creates it for you, or if you create theirs, it will cause confusion later and will slow down the financial aid application process. Need help? You and your student should watch the "How to Create Your FSA ID" video here: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?</u>

v=K7ihhGk8mCY&feature=youtu.be

Talk to your teen about the colleges they are considering. Ask why those schools are appealing, and help clarify their goals and priorities.

Attend college fairs with your teen, but don't take over the conversation with the college representatives. Just listen, and let your student do the talking. Use this checklist: <u>https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/how-</u> to-find-your-college-fit/college-fair-checklist

Take your teen to **visit college campuses**, preferably when classes are in session so you both get a sense of what the campus is really like. Use this checklist when visiting college campuses to make the most of your time:

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/find-colleges/ campus-visit-guide/campus-visit-checklist

Make sure your student is looking into or has already applied for scholarships. Use this free search tool to get started: <u>https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/</u> <u>scholarship-search</u>

Ask your employer whether scholarships are available for employees' children. Encourage your teen to start researching scholarships.

Learn about student and parent loans in Federal Student Loans: Basics for Students (<u>https://</u> <u>studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/direct-loan-</u> <u>basics-students.pdf</u>) and Federal Student Loans: Direct PLUS Loan Basics for Parents (<u>https://</u> <u>studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/direct-loan-</u> <u>basics-parents.pdf</u>).

Help your teen stay organized. Work with your 11th-grader to make weekly or monthly to-do lists to accomplish required tasks and prepare to apply to colleges. For more time-management tips, see 8 Ways to Take Control of Your Time: https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/ inside-the-classroom/8-ways-to-take-control-ofyour-time

Help your student look into summer learning programs or find a job or internship. Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills. Colleges seek students who pursue meaningful activities:

https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/get-started/ inside-the-classroom/summer-learning-programswhat-why-and-how

Notes:

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