

{INSERT NAME OF HIGH SCHOOL HERE}
11TH GRADE COLLEGE –BOUND CHECKLIST



Continue to build on successes at school

Colleges look closely at your grades during your sophomore and junior years to determine the “current you.” One bad grade during your junior year can be devastating; even if your cumulative GPA is high based on your performance during 9th and 10th grades. Take advantage of AP, other upper-level course offerings and CCA classes if available.

Prepare for and take the ACT

Make sure you study and understand what is on the test. Take a practice test; you can get these in your school’s Future Center. Remember that every student in Colorado will take the statewide ACT assessment at the end of April during their junior year. Go to www.collegeincolorado.org for FREE Test Prep online.

Write a draft of your personal essay

Most scholarship applications require a personal essay but not all colleges require an essay, however, it is always good to send one in. Your essay will help you to stand out from other applicants.

Create/update personal resume

Update your personal resume so that it highlights your accomplishments and involvement, which should include school activities, work, and volunteering/community service activities.

Consider who to ask about letters of recommendation

Build a resume and/or complete a letter of recommendation request form and keep them on file so that you can give to teachers, coaches, counselors and/or advisors during your senior year.

Attend College Nights and College Fairs

This is the ideal year to gather college information. If you attend college nights and fairs now it will make your senior year that much easier. Info: www.coloradocouncil.org.

Find 10 colleges that match your interests (By summer before senior year, narrow your list to maximum 6-10 colleges)

Research your colleges and place them into three categories:

SAFETY SCHOOLS: your grades and test scores are well above the college’s average.

TARGET SCHOOLS: your grades and test scores are about the same as the college’s average.

REACH SCHOOLS: your grades and test scores are below the college’s average.

Understand all the necessary parts of the college application

Not all the college applications are the same, so make sure you pay close attention to the application requirements for each school to which you plan to apply.

Begin scholarship and financial aid search

- Since scholarship deadlines are usually at the same time each year, you can use your junior year to find and save scholarships for which you may be eligible.
- Use tools such as the online FAFSA Forecaster (www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov/) to help calculate how much financial aid your student will receive and to estimate your Expected Family Contribution (EFC).

Student-Athletes Register for The NCAA Clearinghouse

Register for the NCAA Clearinghouse by logging onto www.ncaaclearinghouse.net. The NCAA Clearinghouse is a requirement for student-athletes who plan to play collegiate sports at the Division I or Division II level. The clearinghouse, which is a separate organization from the college you plan to attend, evaluates your academic record to determine if you are eligible to play as a freshman in college. (You still have to apply to the college separately for admission, just like everyone else).

Finalize Summer Plans

Explore summer jobs, academic enrichment and volunteer opportunities. Be aware of application requirements and deadlines. Look into workshops offered by college preparation programs at local colleges, as they can provide the information and structure your student may need to get started.

Visit Your Future Center, ROOM {Insert Room #},
College and Financial Aid Advisor, {INSERT NAME HERE},
Email: {Insert}@denverscholarship.org