

SENIOR - College Check List

1. Choose colleges (go to www.collegeboard.com, www.naviance.com, individual college websites)
 - Location
 - Size (total # of students? Big lecture hall?)
 - Student/teacher ratio
 - Major/areas of study
 - Sports
 - Reputation

2. Request information on-line from colleges (see back of list for schools in Colorado)
 - Write down the name of the admission rep: memorize her name, learn her email, ask great questions

3. Sign up to take/retake tests (talk to your counselor)
 - ACT **sign up in October for ACT test in December**
 - SAT I? SAT II (subject tests)
 - Practice timed tests

4. Determine deadlines and requirements for each college (**Apply by Thanksgiving**)
 - Application**
 - Interest/job/service description** - consider non-traditional service (i.e. translating for your family)
 - Essays** – draft your essay based on the question from each college; get help editing the essay
 - Letters of recommendation**
 - Who should write your letter of recommendation?
 - Give that person: personal request, resume, why college x, a self addressed/stamped envelope, the Deadline/s, a letter of recommendation form, and write a “THANK YOU” note!
 - Transcripts** (when you request transcript from counselor or registrar, give her/him same information as for letter of recommendation, because the counselor will have to write counselor recommendation)
 - Test Scores from ACT/SAT** + Does college want you to take **SAT II**?

6. Go to a College Fair! Hundreds of colleges visit Denver this week, in-state and out-of-state
 - Kennedy HS, Oct 13, 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. OR**
 - Douglas County HS, Oct 15, 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.**

5. Keep track of deadlines. Write down the name of the person you talked to at each college

6. Explore scholarship options (**Start now.**)
 - Find hundreds of scholarships at www.denverscholarship.org/scholarships (ANY college)
 - Look at each college brochure/website for scholarship deadlines/procedures
 - Complete all application requirements, meet deadlines, re/write essays. Keep track!

7. Complete Financial Aid steps (**due April 1**)
 - Complete the FAFSA forecaster to determine family contribution - Summer or Fall, www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov
 - In January, complete FAFSA, www.fafsa.ed.gov with 2009 tax information and 2010 W2 forms -parent & student
 - OR in February, complete FAFSA on www.fafsa.ed.gov with 2010 tax information – parent & student
 - Complete DSF Scholarship application by April 1, www.denverscholarship.org
 - Work with financial aid office at college to MAKE SURE your financial aid file IS COMPLETE