

# Class of 2024 Summer Checklist: Preparing for Your Senior Year!

- Take the ACT (June 10th and July 15th register at [act.org](http://act.org)) or SAT (June 3rd register at [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)).
- Get a summer job to expand your experiences and earn college money. Internships and volunteering provide experience too.
- Research colleges and visit campuses.
- Continue applying for scholarships ([fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com)).
- Create a Common App account so you are prepared when the Common App opens in August. Go to [commonapp.org](http://commonapp.org) and click on the "Start your application" button to get details about how to create an account.
- Look at college applications. Create a list of all information you will need to compile.
- Practice makes perfect. Begin working on your scholarship and college application essays; reread and revise.

## Common Scholarship Questions:

- Write a short autobiography including information about your family, work experience, community involvement, hobbies, spare time activities, and what you hope to do in the future.
  - Include a summary or personal statement describing your accomplishments and goals.
  - List any honors and awards you have received.
  - List your extra-curricular activities.
  - Describe areas in your life where you demonstrated leadership and overcame obstacles either through your school, social, or family life.
  - What is the most difficult challenge you have ever faced? How did you manage it?
  - Why do you need the scholarship? Explain your financial need.
  - What are your educational goals?
- Start making a senior year checklist (sample checklist on back of this page).
  - Take time to have fun!

Have a great summer!

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Sample Checklist for August – September of Senior Year:

- Register for the SAT and/or ACT if you did not take one as a junior or want to retake one.  
SAT: collegeboard.org or ACT: act.org
- Check with your school counselor to ensure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements.
- Take every opportunity to get to know colleges. Meet with college representatives who visit your school, attend school and local college fairs, and continue to visit campuses.
- Narrow down your list of colleges. Collect information about the application and financial aid process at each school.
- Begin completing the Common App: Create an account, add colleges, and add school counselors as recommenders.
- Create a checklist and calendar to keep track of standardized test dates, college application due dates, and financial aid deadlines. Make a note of the other materials, such as recommendations or essays that you will need to complete your applications.

**Why do you need a username and password ID (FSA ID)?**  
**Studentaid.gov**

**Scholarships!**  
POSTCARD  
Parents,  
You will use your username and password (FSA ID) to sign your child's FAFSA® form each year and to apply for a Direct PLUS Loan.

**student employment!**  
POSTCARD  
Borrowers,  
You will use your username and password (FSA ID) to sign your Master Promissory Note (MPN) and complete entrance and exit counseling.

**Complete the FAFSA!**  
POSTCARD  
Students,  
You will use your username and password (FSA ID) to complete and sign your FAFSA® form each year.

Federal Student Aid

Dr. Carmen Purpus 05/2023

Have a great summer!