

Senior Year Checklist

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- ___ By **September**, plan and prepare to retake ACT if necessary
- ___ Finalize top colleges to apply to
- ___ Create senior-year calendar with application deadlines, decision deadlines, scholarship deadlines
- ___ Check that student will meet graduation requirements and will graduate on time
- ___ **September 1, 2023** actively continue the Financial Aid process:
 - ___ Attend High School Financial Aid Night
 - ___ Research and apply for 10 to 20 scholarships and grants. Use spreadsheet to track:
 - ___ Local scholarships, including high school, banks, insurance, work etc.
 - ___ See high school guidance webpage and counselors
 - ___ University scholarships
 - ___ National scholarships. Fastweb.org
 - ___ Complete student loan counseling as needed
- ___ By **October 1**, submit request for Early College Credit Courses and/or Start College Now Courses
- ___ **October** attend an education fair
- ___ By **November 1, or sooner** Complete the FAFSA: <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
 - ___ Obtain FSA ID, ideally in the summer, or September
 - ___ “Submit” the FAFSA online and watch your personal email to confirm notice of “**Processed**”
 - ___ Provide Verification Materials immediately if requested
- ___ Now, by **December 1 or sooner** if possible, complete the college application process:
 - ___ Get recommendation letters if needed - ask for 3 of them 3 weeks prior
 - ___ Check to see if ACT score needs to be provided to colleges
 - ___ Finalize your college personal statement
 - ___ Get Fee Waivers if necessary
 - ___ Decide whether you are going to apply under early decision program
 - ___ Submit application and watch your personal email
 - ___ Ask Counselors to send official high school transcripts
 - ___ Look for acceptance letter, information and correspondence via personal email and US mail
 - ___ Review and compare Financial Aid Award Letters. Some will come as early as December.
- ___ By **February 1 or sooner** **Apply for TIP Grant:**
 - ___ Submit completed application to the DPI WEOP Ashland office with copy of **Student Aid Report (SAR)** from the FAFSA.gov website **AND Proof of Acceptance** such as an *Acceptance Letter*, or a *Class Schedule*, or a *Financial Aid Award Letter*. Watch your personal email.
- ___ By **February 1 or sooner** **Apply for GEAR UP Scholarship:**

___ Submit completed application to the DPI WEOP Milwaukee Office with copy of your **Financial Aid Award Letter**. Watch your personal email.

___ Review final graduation requirements and confirm the student will graduate on time

___ For the Final College:

___ Accept college offer. Inform other schools of non-attendance.

___ Pay Enrollment Deposit Fee

___ Set up college email accounts

___ Review daily “To Do List” from your college personal profile webpage or email

___ Ask counselor to send final official high school transcripts

___ Review and sign Residence Hall Contract. Send in Resident Hall Deposit

___ Schedule and take College Placement Tests. Prepare in advance.

___ Attend orientation. Find out who your Academic Advisor is. Register for classes.

___ Watch your college and personal email daily. Use personal email for all correspondence, your Flambeau School email is shut off after graduation.

___ **ASK FOR HELP.** Be a “self-advocate”

Additional TIPS:

- Work hard all the way to graduation—second-semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.
- Apply for Dual Enrollment Courses via Early College Credit Program and/or Start College Now Courses by October 1, February 1. Click here: <https://dpi.wi.gov/dual-enrollment>
- Stay involved in after-school activities, and seek leadership roles if possible, which is even more important now because many schools have ACT be optional.
- Compare colleges: <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>
- Well before your college application deadlines, ask your counselor and teachers to submit the required documents (e.g., transcript, letters of recommendation) to the colleges to which you’re applying. You can take virtual tours here: www.campustours.com .
- Complete any last scholarship applications, including the TIP Grant <https://dpi.wi.gov/weop/tip-grant> and GEAR UP Scholarship <https://dpi.wi.gov/weop/gearup/scholarship> for WEOP students such as you.
- Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll.
- Review your college acceptances and compare the colleges’ financial aid offers. Analyze aid offers side by side. <https://www.consumerfinance.gov/paying-for-college/your-financial-path-to-graduation/?houx=826&fdx=340&clhx=87&trnx=324&hltx=121&entx=94&retx=22&taxx=-6&othx=385>
- Contact a school’s financial aid office if you have questions about the aid that school has offered you. In fact, getting to know your financial aid staff early is a good idea no matter what—they can tell you about deadlines, paperwork you might need to submit, and other aid for which you might wish to apply. Set up your new college student portal and check your “To Do List”.
- When you decide which school to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit. Many schools require this notification and deposit by May 1.

If you have questions or need help, please contact:

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