

Want to go to college?

It's time to get started...saving, studying and planning! Use this checklist to help you stay on track as you get closer to your goal of higher education.

12th GRADE CHECKLIST

Academic

- Stay on track! Review class schedules, test scores and college plans with your counselor to ensure that you are meeting all of your college prep requirements.
- Keep up with your homework — your GPA is important!
- Aim high! Take a fourth-year math course, advanced English, AP and other advanced and honors courses.
- Consider courses at a local university or community college.
- Sign up for October or November ACT and/or SAT tests. Apply for exam fee waivers and practice!
- Continue your involvement in academic enrichment and extracurricular activities. Take on leadership roles. Get involved with community service and volunteer work.

College & Career

- Meet with your counselor about plans for college, scholarships and financial aid.
- Create files to keep copies of applications and correspondence.
- Keep track of important dates and deadlines such as class assignments, college application deadlines, test registration dates and fees, and financial aid deadlines.
- Attend college planning information nights and college fairs.
- Request letters of recommendation for scholarships and college applications.
- Apply on time to at least two or three colleges.
- Send high school transcripts to colleges in the fall and send your final transcripts in May.
- Expect to hear whether you have been accepted to colleges by April 15. Compare the acceptance letters, financial aid and scholarship offers. Reply promptly to acceptance letters from colleges. Pay a non-refundable deposit to your selected college for tuition and housing for your freshman year.
- Send “thank you” notes to scholarship providers and people who wrote letters of recommendation for you.
- Participate in orientation programs for freshman.

Financial

- Keep saving for college!
- Make a financial aid checklist, including deadlines.
- Complete and submit scholarship applications.
- Attend financial aid nights.
- Register for selective service at the post office or online. This applies to males, 18 years of age. You cannot receive financial aid if you do not register!
- FAFSA time! With your parents, gather the necessary documents to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Check fafsa.gov before you begin.
- Complete the FAFSA at fafsa.gov before the priority deadline for your school. Most, but not all Montana schools have a priority deadline of March 1.
- You and your parents will need a FAFSA Pin. pin.ed.gov
- Check your SAR. The Student Aid Report is the government’s reply to your submitted FAFSA and summarizes your financial aid eligibility for any federal programs. Make sure your colleges of choice are listed. If corrections or updates are needed, complete them as soon as possible.
- Contact the Financial Aid Office (FAO) to discuss payment options and the availability of additional student financial aid.

- Complete college-specific, financial aid applications.
- Develop a direct contact at the FAOs of those schools to which you have been accepted. Use this contact periodically to check on the status of your financial aid applications.
- Review and accept appropriate financial aid offers.
- Budget! Prepare a realistic student budget.
- Keep copies of all documents!