Senior year checklist

Keep this checklist and follow these important steps to ensure you are set for success next year! For more tools and resources check readysetgrad.org.

September:
- Meet with your school counselor. Talk about your plans and make sure you are on track to graduate.
- Plan out your year. Check out readysetgrad.org for checklists and timelines. Creating a plan will help keep you on track and help manage stress.
- Talk to colleges. Check with your school counselor for a list of events near you.
- Understand the differences between community college, trade school, and four-year colleges and universities.
- Register to take/re-take the SAT or ACT. Visit collegeboard.org or act.org for more details and to register.
- Start looking for scholarships. Resources like theWashBoard.org are excellent ways to find money to help pay for college.

October/November:
- Narrow your list of schools. Choose 3-6 schools you plan to apply to.
- Know your deadlines. Many schools have early deadlines (even October!). Make a calendar for your schools of interest that notes important deadlines at each school.
- Know the admissions requirements and materials required. Each school may require something different (e.g. a letter of recommendation, specific essay).
- Ask for letters of recommendation.
- Begin applying. Start applying to your list of schools either on your own or by attending application workshops at your school.

December:
- Continue your applications. Many schools have deadlines in December and January.
- Start preparing for the FAFSA/WASFA. Before January 1, gather the items you will need to file the FAFSA/WASFA.
- College Bound Scholarship students. Check collegebound.wa.gov to make sure you are on track to meet eligibility requirements.
- Know the financial aid deadlines at your schools. Don’t miss out on available aid.
- Continue researching and applying for scholarships. Visit theWashBoard.org regularly and keep your profile up-to-date.

Washington Student Achievement Council:
The Washington Legislature created the Washington Student Achievement Council (WSAC) in July 2012. By statute, the Council provides strategic planning, oversight, advocacy, and programs to support increased student success and higher levels of educational attainment in Washington. We do this by leading statewide strategic planning to improve educational coordination and transitions; supporting Washingtonians through the administration of financial aid, a college savings plan, and support services; and advocating for the economic, social, and civic benefits of postsecondary education.

Ready, Set, Grad:
In pursuit of our mission, the Washington Student Achievement Council maintains ReadySetGrad.org, a Webb Award nominated college and career planning website for students and their families. The site includes interactive college and career readiness resources for students in 6th grade through college, as well as details about Washington’s state financial aid programs, and resources for K-12 educators.

Twitter: @Ready_Set_Grad Facebook: Facebook.com/ReadySetGrad

More Information?
Email: info@theWashBoard.org Call: 1-888-535-0747 Ext. #8
January/February:
- Submit your FAFSA or WASFA. Try to submit either your FAFSA or WASFA as soon as possible after January 1 to maximize your aid options.
- Attend a FAFSA/WASFA filing workshop. Workshops are held throughout the state. Talk with your school counselor or visit readysetgrad.org for more information.
- Check in with your colleges. Make sure you know if any additional materials are required with your application.
- Continue researching and applying for scholarships. Visit theWashboard.org regularly and keep your profile up-to-date.

March/April:
- Visit campus. Spring is a great time to visit as many colleges have several options for applicants and admitted students. If you can't visit a school, contact the admissions staff to see if they will be in your area to schedule a meeting or attend a reception.
- Confirm all your materials have been received. Keep in close contact with your preferred schools.
- Compare financial aid packages. Compare the different pieces of each award letter as it relates to tuition, housing, and other costs. If you have questions about your financial aid package, contact an admissions counselor at each school.
- Know confirmation deadlines. Many schools will require you to confirm attendance by May 1.

May:
- Final decisions. Celebrate your success and choice for the future!
- Know your next steps. Talk with the school about the steps you need to complete. For instance, pay enrollment or housing deposits and find out when placement exams and registration will occur.
- Graduation and final materials. Enjoy your high school graduation! Confirm with your school of choice that they’ve received final transcripts or other materials they may need before school lets out for the summer.

Summer:
- Prepare for the fall. Complete all the next steps at your school and keep track of deadlines and any events you should attend. Enjoy your summer!

GET STARTED, IT’S EASY!
There’s a scholarship for that
- Scholarships listed on theWashboard.org are diverse and support a wide variety of student interests and accomplishments.
- One-third of listed scholarships require a GPA of 3.0 or higher.
- More than half of scholarships are not based on financial need.
- 27% of scholarships listed are renewable, which means you may be eligible for continued scholarship funding as you continue your education.
- The scholarships listed in 2014-15 represented 3,023 individual awards totaling $41.6 million dollars!

TheWashboard.org in a nutshell
- Free resource for Washington students attending college in and outside of Washington.
- Students’ private information is kept confidential.
- Helps students quickly identify scholarships for which they are eligible by showing only those scholarship opportunities that match their profile data.
- Web-based, so it can be used at school, at the library, or at home.
- Serves all ages of students, from middle school through college and into graduate school.
- No spam or ads.
- Over 80% of surveyed scholarship seekers would recommend the WashBoard.org to their friends.

When should I create an account?
- It is never too early to create an account on TheWashboard.org! You can start researching scholarships your freshman and sophomore year of high school. This will give you time to become familiar with scholarship requirements, find matches, and prepare to apply for scholarships (mostly beginning in the start of your senior year of high school) and in college. Pay attention to deadlines and note that some may be early in your senior year. You can be working on applications for admission to your college choices at the same time you are working on scholarship applications.

TAKE 5 TO UPDATE 5!
Updating your profile regularly can increase your matches.
Here are 5 items you can update in less than 5 minutes to ensure that you’re getting all the scholarship matches possible.

1. GPA & GRADE LEVEL
2. FIELD OF STUDY & CAREERS
3. PERSONAL INFO
4. COLLEGES BEING CONSIDERED
5. AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS OR COMPANIES