

RFSD Pre-Collegiate Program (revised September 2011)

College Bound Checklist ~ Year By Year Guide

Junior Year

September/October

- Continue taking the most rigorous academic schedule possible, thinking ahead to your senior year. Take dual-credit courses, if appropriate (CMC, CU/Succeed).
- Attend mentor meetings! Communicate with your mentor!
- Start a 'college notebook' & keep it organized: college info; test dates.
- Talk to your school counselor about graduation requirements.
- Get in the habit of looking at the counseling office postings for scholarship opportunities.
- Make sure you understand the standardized tests you will need to take & when they are offered. Keep a calendar w/ test registration deadlines etc.
- Attend College Fairs: get on mailing lists, visit with college representatives both at fairs and at school.
- Attend school information nights: college reps; financial aid; scholarships.
- Check CollegeInColorado.org on regular basis: scholarships & resources.
- Attend PSAT prep sessions, if recommended.
- Take PSAT. Recommended for anyone interested in applying to out- of- state colleges. It is also for anyone to be considered for the National Merit Scholarship.
- Adjust your second semester course schedule in November, if necessary.
- Plan college visits throughout the year.
- Perform community service. Stay involved!

January

- Attend all ACT prep classes. Schedule to be announced.
- Receive results of PSAT. Read materials sent w/ scores & determine how to improve. This is excellent preparation for SAT.
- First semester grades are important!
- Keep college notebook organized & updated!
- Inquire w/ school counselor about National Honor Society application.

February

- Review your transcripts and credits.
- Consider what colleges would be a solid match, given your academic record, interests, and finances. Think about a few that would be easy admission, a good fit and a stretch. Begin to develop your list.
- Understand what entrance exams are required for which colleges.
- Pre-register for senior classes: dual-credit classes; extra math; AP classes.
- Attend all ACT prep classes that are offered.

March

- Attend Saturday Academy session on college financial planning.
- Pre-register for FAFSA. www.fafsa.ed.gov

April

- Take ACT (offered free in your high school).
- Take AP tests if enrolled in AP classes.
- Register for SAT, if considering out-of-state colleges.
- Continue to build a list of 5-10 colleges that match your interest: location, academics, size and financial needs.
- Plan for possible summer college visits.
- Register online for NCAA Clearinghouse if you plan to participate in a Division I or II sport in college.

May

- Take AP tests, if enrolled in AP classes.
- 2nd semester grades are very important!
- Register for SAT, if recommended (collegeboard.com/mysat)
- Register for June ACT (actstudent.org)
- Study your ACT results prior to re-taking test.
- Attend test prep classes when offered.
- Think about & plan your summer.
- Contact teachers for possible letters of recommendation.

June ~ August

- Attend CU/Boulder Summer Camp (mandatory): college essays, resume; practice applications; scholarship opportunities.
- Visit additional college campuses.
- Retake ACT and SAT, if recommended.
- Continue work on college essays & resume.
- Check “collegeincolorado.org” as resource: test prep; resumes; scholarships.
- Write letter to 2-3 teachers requesting letters of recommendation. Attach resume.
- Organize college notebook: colleges of interest; deadlines etc.
- Work, travel, volunteer, READ!

Senior Year

September

- Take most rigorous academic schedule possible: dual-credit courses; AP classes.
- Meet with counselor to verify graduation credits & college entrance requirements.
- Attend mentor meetings! Communicate with your mentor!
- Consider retaking ACT. Study! Study! Review past test information.
- Attend all test prep sessions that are offered.
- Keep your college notebook organized w/ colleges of interest & application deadlines.
- Create scholarship file: check counseling office postings; online; pre-collegiate resource files. Watch deadlines.
- Follow-up with 2-3 teachers writing letters of recommendation. Give them deadlines, plus copy of your resume.
- Visit college fairs & meet with college reps.
- Note early decision & early action deadlines. Usually in November.
- Think about extracurricular activities & community service. Update your resume.

October

- Continue to follow up with letters of recommendation.
- Meet with college representatives who visit high school.
- Check application dates for colleges of interest.
- Keep college notebook updated: test calendar; scholarship deadlines. Stay organized! This is important!
- Keep safe record of all passwords, PIN #'s & ID #'s.
- Make sure all content on your Facebook page is appropriate. Remember college admissions offices may take a look.
- Create an appropriate e-mail address.
- Attend Saturday Academies to work on college applications & scholarships.
- Finish essays. Get them read & edited by several people.
- Complete Early Decision applications.
- Check counseling office scholarship postings.

November

- Complete college applications by Thanksgiving break. Make copies of all applications before mailing.
- Ask counseling office to send transcripts.
- Send official test scores: act.org & collegeboard.com
- Confirm letters of recommendation have been sent.
- Request PCP letter for application fee waiver.
- Keep all records, test score reports, copies of applications, letters of reference. Do not throw anything away. Keep copies until at least end of first year at college.
- Adjust 2nd semester schedule, if need be.

December

- Complete remaining college applications, no later than winter break!
- Be concerned about first semester grades.
- Re-take ACT, if recommended.
- Keep looking for scholarships. Keep your file updated w/ deadlines etc.
- Attend Saturday Academies: financial aid & scholarships.
- Check application status on line. Follow up w/ admissions offices by phone, if necessary.

January ~ February

- Register w/ FAFSA (www.fafsa.ed.gov). Attend Saturday Academy & high school information sessions w/ your parents. The application should be completed as soon after January 1st as possible. Get your parents involved! Tax forms etc.
- Some colleges require submission of the CSS/Profile (www.collegeboard.com)
- Update scholarship notebook w/ applications & deadlines. Keep checking resources for application opportunities. Apply! Apply!
- Submit additional credentials to colleges (mid-year grades, test scores etc).
- Monitor college applications to be sure all materials have been received.
- Check with financial aid office at chosen schools. See what they require. When is their FAFSA deadline? What else do they need from you? What other financial aid & scholarship options do they offer?

March ~ April

- Complete scholarships by due date.
- Most colleges must receive FAFSA by March 1st.
- You should get acceptance letters & financial aid offers by mid-April.
- Make final campus visits, if needed.
- Keep grades up!

May

- Notify colleges of final decision by May 1st.
- Send tuition/housing deposits to college of choice.
- Notify other colleges that not attending.
- Take AP exams if enrolled in AP classes.
- Request final transcript to be sent to college attending.
- Write thank you notes to scholarship organizations teachers & mentors!
- GRADUATE!

Website Resources:

www.fafsa.ed.gov

www.actstudent.org

www.collegeboard.com/mysat

CollegeInColorado.org

Cof.college-access.net

