

Switch to Prepared

High School Checklist

Congratulations! You are ready to embark on the last leg of your journey to higher education. To make sure you are fully prepared for the next step, use this checklist as a guide.

The road to higher education can be overwhelming, but you don't have to go it alone. Our team at Envista can help you along the way. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit envistacollegeroadmap.com.

Freshman year



CREATE 4-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL PLAN



- This plan should include all courses suggested to be college-ready (4 English courses, 4 mathematics courses, 3 science courses, 3 social studies courses, 2 foreign language courses and 1 fine art course). Consider special curriculum options, including Advance Placement (AP), Dual Credit and International Baccalaureate (IB) programs

ENROLL IN CHALLENGING COURSES



- Treat your transcript as a resume for higher education, as it will be reviewed by admissions and financial aid officers

GET TO KNOW YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR



- This person will be a crucial advocate as you start your journey to higher education

ENGAGE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



- Be sure to track volunteer hours, awards, leadership roles, and special involvements for future college and scholarship applications (see our "[Activities Resume](#)" example in Resources)

DISCOVER HOW YOU LEARN BEST



- Experiment with different ways to study, summarize, and remember your course material

LOOK FOR MEANINGFUL JOB SHADOWING OPPORTUNITIES



- This will help further explore career interests

CONTINUE SAVING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



- Meet with our team at Envista to make sure you're on track with your savings plan. Use available resources to help reach your goals.

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Sophomore year



ENROLL IN CHALLENGING COURSES



- Explore programs that will give you an academic edge, such as Advance Placement (AP), Dual Credit and/or International Baccalaureate (IB)

TAKE PSAT AND/OR ACT PLAN IN OCTOBER



- This will get you ready for the SAT and ACT, which many colleges require for admission. Talk to your counselor about how to best prepare for these tests

EXPLORE ACADEMIC AND CAREER INTERESTS



- Doing so will help identify your abilities and aptitudes

CONSIDER ATTENDING A SUMMER CAMP



- Further develop your skills, talents, and academic interests through these additional courses. For ideas, check area college or school district websites

CREATE A PERMANENT EMAIL ADDRESS



- Use this email to communicate with recruiters

UPDATE YOUR ACTIVITIES RESUME



- Many scholarships have requirements that center around the number of hours devoted to certain activities, so be sure to keep a detailed log of your time

ASK FOR HELP



- Planning for higher education can feel overwhelming. And while it may feel far away, your child will graduate before you know it. At Envista, we can help you through the entire process. For more information or to schedule an appointment, visit envistacollegeroadmap.com.

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Junior year



MEET WITH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR



- Review your progress and make sure you are on the path to graduation and to meet higher education admission requirements

ENROLL IN CHALLENGING COURSES



- Push yourself academically by taking Advance Placement (AP), Dual Credit and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. Keep an eye on your GPA so it stays in line with your higher education aspirations

TAKE PSAT IN OCTOBER



- This will get you ready for the SAT, which many colleges require for admission. Talk to your counselor about how to best prepare for this test. Your PSAT score from your Junior year may qualify you for the [National Merit Scholarship](#)

START RESEARCHING OPTIONS TO CONTINUE YOUR EDUCATION AFTER HIGH SCHOOL



- Schedule campus tours and attend college fairs to begin to narrow down your higher education choices

TAKE ACT OR SAT BETWEEN MARCH AND JUNE



- You are allowed to take these tests on multiple occasions to potentially increase your score, though we don't recommend more than 4 times. Explore various resources to help in preparation, both free and paid

PREPARE FOR HIGHER EDUCATION ADMISSION PROCESS



- This includes essay writing, gathering required documents and deadlines

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS



- Keep your eyes and ears open for all scholarship opportunities

CREATE AN ACTIVITIES RESUME



- Gather your test scores, awards, important courses, and [Activity Log](#) to develop a resume that can be used for applications to schools and scholarships

REQUEST A FEDERAL STUDENT AID (FSA) ID



- Go to fsaid.ed.gov to request a FSA ID for both student and parent

CONTINUE SAVING FOR HIGHER EDUCATION



- College savings provides the family with flexibility in college choice

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Senior year



ENROLL IN CHALLENGING COURSES



- Finish strong by taking Advance Placement (AP), Dual Credit and/or International Baccalaureate (IB) courses. Keep an eye on your GPA so that it stays in line with your higher education aspirations

BE SURE TO TAKE A MATH COURSE



- Research has shown that students who have taken a fourth year of math in high school are more successful in college

MEET WITH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR AT THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR



- Use this time to discuss plans for higher education and review ACT/SAT scores

RETAKE ACT OR SAT IN OCTOBER, IF NECESSARY



- A higher score might increase the amount of scholarships received and improve admission acceptance

SCHEDULE CAMPUS TOURS AND ATTEND COLLEGE FAIRS



- We recommend completing all campus tours prior to November to allow for ample time to make your final decision

FINALIZE YOUR ACTIVITIES RESUME



- This includes essay writing, gathering required documents and deadlines

FILL OUT FREE APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL STUDENT AID (FAFSA) ASAP AFTER OCTOBER 1



- Financial aid is generally awarded on a “first come, first serve” basis. Some private colleges and scholarship programs will also require the completion of the CSS/Financial Aid Profile, in addition to the FAFSA. Tip: The FAFSA is free at fafsa.ed.gov

COMPARE ALL HIGHER EDUCATION OFFERS AND FINANCIAL AID AWARD PACKAGES



- Look at your awards and cost of college estimates. Then, meet with our team to find ways to determine the most cost effective path to achieving your goals

PAY ATTENTION TO DEADLINES



- Complete college admissions, financial aid, and scholarship applications on time and in full. If requesting letters of recommendation or transcripts, give your counselors or teachers plenty of time to complete the task

MAKE YOUR COLLEGE OR TRAINING PROGRAM DECISION BY MAY 1



- If you've missed the May 1 deadline, you need to contact the admissions office immediately and ask to speak with an admissions counselor about a agreed upon deadline

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Next steps



MEET WITH ENVISTA



- Navigating the financial process is easier when you have an expert in your corner. We make it easy

ATTEND ORIENTATION PROGRAMS



- Attending orientation is linked to several positive outcomes for first-year students throughout their entire collegiate career

ENROLL IN COURSES FOR THE FALL



- Aim for 15 credit hours each semester to graduate on time

SUBMIT HOUSING/RESIDENT DEPOSIT



- And don't forget to connect with your roommate

RETURN ANY FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE DOCUMENTS THAT REQUIRE SIGNATURES



- Take special note of all deadlines

NOTIFY OTHER COLLEGES OF YOUR DECISION



- While this may seem like a painful and unnecessary process, it is the helpful, polite thing to do. It also gives you great experience for the future.

START PLANNING FOR PAYMENTS



- Be sure to know when your first bill is due. This is also a good time to determine whether or not you'll need to have a payment plan