

SENIOR PLANNING CHECKLIST 2025-2026 (College-Bound)



Fall Semester

- ☐ Attend one-on-one Senior meeting with your Counselor (September/October).
- ☐ [The College Admission Brief](#) is a podcast for high school students going through the college admission experience. Check it out.
- ☐ Register to take/retake SAT, ACT as needed (optional)
 - ☐ www.actstudent.org
 - ☐ www.collegeboard.org
- ☐ Explore work-based learning opportunities through Xello.
 - ☐ From the EXPLORE OPTIONS page - click on OPPORTUNITIES.
 - ☐ Filter by activity to see local PAID JOBS, JOB SHADOWS, INTERNSHIPS, APPRENTICESHIPS.
 - ☐ Interested in an Opportunity? Click on the REQUEST button to start your application.
- ☐ Check your PSD email account regularly. You will receive periodic updates that are important to Senior year and your post-secondary plans.
- ☐ Meet virtually or in person with College Admissions & Military Representatives at WMHS. Watch for schedules of visits. Sign up with Ms. Ford in Counseling.
- ☐ Develop your college list. Consider reviewing with your school Counselor.
- ☐ Determine how you will apply: [Common Application](#), [Coalition Application](#), [Xello](#) and/or directly to the college/university.
- ☐ Know application deadlines for schools and scholarships to which you plan to apply. Be aware of Early Decision/Early Action deadlines.
- ☐ Begin writing application essays.
- ☐ Transcript Request forms are located in Counseling. Official transcripts are \$3.00 each or \$3.00 for a Common App, Coalition Application, or Xello upload.
- ☐ If you intend to play DI or DII sports in college, register with the NCAA Eligibility Center www.eligibilitycenter.org.
- ☐ [Request letters of recommendation from teachers/counselors](#). Speak with your teachers/counselors first before sending your request through email or Common App. **Remember to write thank-you notes!**
- ☐ Register to take the AP Exams (if applicable). Generally, the deadline is in the first week of November. [Create a College Board account if you don't already have one.](#)
- ☐ Visit college campuses, virtually or in person.
- ☐ Review your applications, transcript, activities/resume, and college essays to ensure they are accurate and complete. Enlist an editor to help.
- ☐ Submit Early Decision/Early Action applications by each school's deadline.
- ☐ Watch for Colorado Free Application Days. We will be holding an event here at WMHS in October (date TBD) where everyone can submit their application to Colorado schools for free. Stay tuned.
- ☐ Submit the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), expected to open October 1st, 2025.

Spring Semester

- Keep checking for college & military visits in Counseling. Ms. Ford will advertise dates and handle sign-ups.
- Stay focused on coursework! Second semester grades are included on Final Transcripts and can affect Merit Award amounts. If you are waitlisted, colleges will want to know what you've accomplished since the time of application.
- Focus on Scholarship applications. Check out other Scholarship Search Engines. You may be eligible for more scholarships than you think!
- Review your college acceptances and financial aid awards. Determine affordability and discuss with parents how you will fund your education.
- Visit your college of choice before accepting, if possible.
- May 1st is College Decision Day - inform every college of your acceptance or rejection of their offer of admission. Send any deposit funds to only one college.
- First half of May - Take AP exams and request that your scores be sent to the college you will be attending (through College Board).
- You must complete the Senior Exit Survey to let the school know about your plans after graduation, scholarships you've received, and where to send your Final Transcripts.

\$ Paying for College \$

- Check out Big Future's [Financial Aid 101](#) to become familiar with the financial aid landscape.
- Apply for the [College Opportunity Fund \(COF\)](#). All Colorado students qualify for this stipend. It's free and only needs to be done once. ****If you have taken a Concurrent Enrollment course through FRCC or AIMS, you have already completed this step.**
- Use the Net Price Calculator on each college's website to determine affordability.
- Students and parents both apply for a [FSA ID](#) in advance of completing the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at [studentaid.gov](#).
- FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Application is expected to open for 2026-2027 on Oct. 1st. Apply [here](#) at your earliest convenience to have early access to school-specific scholarships and federal aid. There will be FAFSA workshops and help sessions available. Stay tuned.
- Review the PSD Scholarship Packet-available in December in Counseling and online. Application will open in early December. Stay tuned.

Find a Program/Compare Schools

- The following websites, [Xello](#) and [College Scorecard](#), allow you to set filters such as location, degree type, and academic program to compare colleges side-by-side. They also give you estimated graduation rates, average annual costs, and the median earnings of school graduates all in one place.