

DELAWARE COLLEGE APPLICATION MONTH STUDENT CHECKLIST



Dear High School Senior,

It is probably hard to believe your senior year is finally here. With it, comes planning for what you will do after graduation. As you know, education beyond high school is important in today's economy. You have spent the last twelve years in school preparing for life after high school—now is the time to put those plans into motion!

It's officially time for you to apply to college. There are a lot of options out there, and it can be a little overwhelming. This checklist, in conjunction with your Student Success Plan, is designed as a tool to help you sort through all of that information. We have also included important factors to consider as you decide which college is right for you.

*In a few weeks, you will have the opportunity to apply to the colleges of your choice during **College Application Month**. Your school counselor will help you get ready for this opportunity and provide you with the specific date(s) of the event at your school.*

Deciding on a college is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. Explore this checklist, ask questions, and prepare to apply to college during your school's College Application Week.

We wish you the best of luck as you begin this exciting time in your life!

*Sincerely,
The College Application Month Planning Team*



✓ Choosing a College Major

Your major is the specific subject area you will study. Typically, between one-third and one-half of the courses you will take in college will be in your major or related to it.

Choosing a major can be daunting! Here are some questions to help narrow down your choices:

1. What are your interests?
2. What type of work do you enjoy?
3. Which subjects did you enjoy studying the most in high school?
4. What type of career can you see yourself in?
5. What careers are offered in the area you would like to live?

Remember that it's not uncommon for college students to change majors one or more times after they enroll in college, so you may want to explore colleges that offer more than one of your preferred majors.

List YOUR top three college major choices:

- 1st Choice: _____
- 2nd Choice: _____
- 3rd Choice: _____



✓ Exploring Postsecondary Schools

There are hundreds of postsecondary colleges and universities to which you have the opportunity to apply, but it is important to answer some questions to figure out the best fit for you. Here are some things to think about as you explore!

Size

Large or Small Campus?
Everybody Knows You or Anonymity of a Crowd?
On or Off-Campus Living?
Large or Small Class Size?
Professors or Teaching Assistants?
Lots of Extracurricular Activities or Just a Few?

Type

2-year or 4-year School?
Single Sex or Coed?
Religious Affiliation?
Public or Private?

Geography

City or Rural Area?
Close to Home or Far Away?

Cost

In-State or Out-of-State Tuition?
Scholarship Opportunities or No?
Work Study Programs Available or Not?
Less or More Expensive than National/State Average?

You also may want to find someone who attended each of the schools of your choice. Interview them and find out more about their college experiences.

Questions you may want to ask:

What was your major?
Did you change majors while in school?
What did you like/dislike about the school?
Did you stay on campus?
Were you the first in your family to go to college?
Were you involved in any campus activities?
Do you think this school is a good fit for me?

When you want to start searching, we recommend that you visit
<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/>.



You can supplement your research with the following as well:
www.nces.edu.gov/collegenavigator or <http://www.collegeresults.org/> or
<http://www.imfirst.org/>.

This will allow you to gather information about a variety of colleges and universities. Use the table on the bottom of this page to keep track of college admission requirements for your top three colleges.

Based on your research, list YOUR top three colleges:

1st Choice: _____

2nd Choice: _____

3rd Choice: _____



✓ “Top 3” Information

Top three colleges and universities to which you wish to submit an application:

1. _____

Deadline for application: _____ Cost to apply: _____ Payment option: _____

Deadline for scholarship or institutional financial assistance: _____

2. _____

Deadline for application: _____ Cost to apply: _____ Payment option: _____

Deadline for scholarship or institutional financial assistance: _____

3. _____

Deadline for application: _____ Cost to apply: _____ Payment option: _____

Deadline for scholarship or institutional financial assistance: _____

College Comparison Chart			
	School 1	School 2	School 3
Geographic Location			
Campus Setting			
Admission/Placement Test Requirements			
Number of Enrolled Students			
Student Graduation Rate			
College Housing Options			
College Transportation			
Application Fee Waiver Available?			
Tuition (yearly)			
Room and Board (yearly)			
Total Estimated Yearly Cost			
Grants (Does the school participate in federal/state grant programs?)			
Scholarships			
Work Study			
Loans			
Financial Aid Deadline			
% of Undergraduates Receiving Aid			



✓ Preparing to Apply

There are many components of a college application. You can prepare for College Application Week at your school by ensuring you have access to the following:

Official Transcript:

- Your transcript is the record of all the courses you have taken for high school credit, your grades, and credits earned. Other information that might be included on a transcript: GPA, class rank, standardized test scores, course in progress. This is normally sent directly from your high school to the college.

Standardized Test Scores:

- SAT or ACT scores

Application Forms:

Many colleges accept The Common Application. Regardless of the school or application, these will be important components:

- Personal and Educational Data
 - Name
 - Address
 - Phone number
 - E-mail
 - Social Security Number (if you plan to apply for financial aid by using the Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
 - Citizenship and residency information
 - High schools you have attended
 - College credits you have earned
 - Parental information
 - Senior-year schedule
 - Standardized test scores
 - Parents' names and contact information (including their work numbers and emails), the college(s) they attended, if any, and graduation years.
- Residency Information (for University of Delaware)
 - State and date in which your parents' (or guardians') driver's licenses were issued.
- Honors and Awards



- Extracurricular, Personal, and Volunteer Activities
- Employment, Internships, and Summer Activities (Some colleges allow you to submit a resume in addition to the activity section of their application.)
- Essays – Both Short Answer and a Longer Personal Essay
- Disciplinary Information
- Application Fee (Many colleges will accept fee waivers that can be obtained from the guidance office if you are eligible.)
- Signature
- Audition or Portfolio (For certain majors, students might be required to audition or asked to submit a portfolio of artistic work.)

Recommendation Forms:

- Most colleges and universities will require at least one recommendation form or letter of recommendation. Some schools may stipulate that these have to come from a counselor, teacher, or community member who knows you well.
- Remember, colleges are not only interested in hearing from teachers who taught courses in which you've received a top grade, but from teachers (and other individuals) who know you well and can talk about your work ethic, inquisitive nature, and motivation to learn.

It is strongly recommended that you write your essays and personal statements well in advance of their school's College Application Week. Bring a final, edited electronic copy on a flash drive.



✓ College Application Worksheet

Complete this information **before** the College Application event and keep it in a safe place.

Personal Information

Full Name (First, Middle, Last) _____

Permanent Address (where all mail will be sent) _____

City, State, ZIP _____

Home Phone Number _____

Mobile Phone Number _____

E-Mail Address _____

Bring your social security number or memorize it. You will need it!

Driver's License Number _____

Date Issued _____

Date of Birth _____

Place of Birth _____

Citizenship (check one) _____ U.S. Citizen
_____ Permanent Resident
_____ Other, give visa type

If not a U.S. citizen, are you a legal immigrant (permanent resident alien of the U.S.)?

_____ Yes

_____ No*

*If you answered "no," be prepared to answer the following:

Country of Citizenship _____

Permanent Residence _____

Resident Alien Number _____

Country of Birth _____



Parent/Guardian Information

	Parent/Guardian #1	Parent/Guardian #2
Full Name (First, Middle, Last)	_____	_____
Relationship to You	_____	_____
Street Address	_____	_____
City, State, ZIP	_____	_____
Telephone Number	_____	_____
E-Mail Address	_____	_____
Highest Level of Education Completed (Unknown, K-8, High School, 2-Year College, 4-Year College, Graduate School)	_____	_____
Institution/Degree	_____	_____
Parents' or Guardians' Drivers' License Information		
State Issued	_____	_____
Date Issued	_____	_____

*You also may want to familiarize yourself with your parent/guardian's job (company/organization name, occupation, and job title). Some applications may ask for a salary range.

Educational Information

Name of Current High School _____

Mailing Address _____

Telephone Number _____

Date Entering High School _____

Anticipated Graduation Date _____

If you have attended any other high schools, you will need the above information for the other high schools you have attended.

List any colleges you have attended for which you expect to receive college credit:



College Name _____

City, State _____

Dates of Attendance _____

List the courses you are taking during your senior year. Please indicate any that are Honors, AP, IB or Dual Enrollment (college courses):

Fall Semester:

Spring Semester

Testing Information

SAT Test Date (Month/Year) _____

Critical Reading Score _____

Math Score _____

Writing Score _____

ACT Test Date (Month/Year) _____

Composite Score _____

English Score _____

Verbal Score _____

Reading Score _____

Science Score _____



List your extracurricular, community and family activities, and hobbies. Be prepared to include specific events and major accomplishments such as musical or artist talent or volunteer services.

Activity	Grade Level				Approx. Time Spent		When?	Positions Held
	9	10	11	12	Hours/Week	Weeks/Year		

List any work experience that you may have.

Position Held	Employer	Dates of Employment	Hours/Week



✓ Apply for Your FSA ID

Applying for college is a HUGE step toward your future, but college can seem out of reach because of the cost of attending. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) can help by providing grant and loan opportunities for students who qualify. Before you can submit a FAFSA, you need to apply for your FSA ID. It is highly recommended that you apply for your FSA ID at your College Application Week event.

1. Go to <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov/>.
2. At the toolbar at the top of the screen, click “FSA ID” to be directed to another page.
3. On the new page, find the link under the header of the page that reads “create a FSA ID now” and click on it.
4. On the new page, find the tab “Create an FSA ID” and click on it.
5. Follow the prompts on the subsequent pages to confirm your identity, create your profile, and to review your information. **NOTE:** Be sure to keep track of any challenge questions that you establish for the protection of your account.
6. Be sure to click submit once all information has been carefully submitted!
7. You have successfully submitted your FSA ID application!
8. Keep your FSA ID and password in a safe location. Your FSA ID is considered a legal signature and should not be shared with anyone. You will need it to complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid and to log onto FAFSA’s website.

If you have any questions about the FSA ID, visit:

<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>

