

# COLLEGE PREP CHECK LISTS

## *Junior Year Fall Semester:*

- Review key verbal and math concepts and study for the SAT or ACT. Taking a Prep. Course for these tests is helpful.
- Take the PSAT on October 7th at 8:00 a.m.
- Talk to Mrs. Byrd about your academic requirements for colleges.
- Continue taking challenging courses and working for high grades
- Continue community service involvement
- Make a list of what you want in a college. Consider the following:
  - What affiliation do I want (Christian, private or public)?
  - What size school do I want to attend?
  - How far from home do I want to be?
  - What type of community should the school be near?
  - What majors am I interested in?
  - What activities do I want to participate in?
  - What other characteristics am I looking for in a college?
- Review your list of college preferences and begin searching online for schools that match your geographic area, affiliations, etc.
- Attend a “College Fair.” Seattle College Fair is on October 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> at the Washington State Convention and Trade Center.
- Begin collecting material from colleges and organize a filing system so you can locate information about each school.
- You will have a “College Guidance” course either Fall or Spring Semester at Cascade Christian.

## *Junior Year Spring Semester*

- Attend a college fair to gather information about schools and talk with admissions counselors.
- Register for the ACT and or/SAT.
- Meet w/Mrs. Byrd to review your test scores and college goals. Discuss your top college choices and potential scholarships.
- Narrow the number of colleges to a manageable number before applying.
- Schedule college visits to your top choices
- Organize a file of awards, activities, leadership and community service in preparation for filing out applications.
- Begin researching scholarship options that you can apply for now.
- Begin formulating answers to potential essays or interview questions like “Why do you want to attend college?” and “What are your strengths and weakness?”
- Meet w/Mrs. Byrd to set up your senior year schedule.

## **Senior Year Fall Semester**

- Attend a college fair to gather printed materials about colleges
- Watch for early admissions deadlines (usually November 1)
- Apply to your top five college choices.
  - 1<sup>st</sup> Choice – your dream school
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> choices – within reach
  - 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> choices – your safety net
- Write admission essays with care and have a teacher or parent proof them.
- Give your recommendation forms early to your reference people.
- Submit request to Mrs. Warren in the school office to have your transcript sent to your top colleges
- Retake the ACT and/or SAT if needed
- Research and apply for more scholarships
- Visit your top college choices if you did not visit in the spring of your Junior year.
- Complete the FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) with your parents. Send in FAFSA as soon as possible after January 1<sup>st</sup>. Request that your top colleges received your information.
- Confirm that all target schools have your financial aid forms. Check with them to see about applying for institutional grants and scholarships.
- Begin examining housing options, meal plans and course schedules.

### **Senior Year Spring Semester**

- Review your Student Aid Report (SAR) for completeness
- Choose which school is the best match for you after reviewing acceptance letters and financial aid packages. Then notify the school that you are accepting their invitation to attend.
- Set goals with parents on budgeting, working income and future scholarships. Continue applying for grants and scholarships. Consider loan possibilities, if necessary.

### **Senior Year Summer**

- Attend registration weekend at the college
- Talk with parents about what you will take to campus. Begin gathering the items you need through the summer.
- Contact your future roommate when you get your housing assignment. Narrow your packing list by deciding what items to share.
- Spend extra time with your family before you leave for college.