College and Career Checklist:
11th Grade

Complete August through Early December (fall):

1. ___Concentrate on your grades and review courses for the year so you take rigorous classes
   - Acceptance into college is contingent upon successful completion of 12th grade
2. ___Evaluate your transcript with your school counselor and review requirements for graduation, vocational schools, and state college and university admissions
3. ___Discuss your post-high school education plans with school counselor and parents/guardians
4. ___Attend College Night at Golden Gate High School on September 16th
5. ___Attend Parent/Student night at your school
6. ___Attend Financial Aid Night at your high school (Dates posted on CCPS website)
7. ___Continue working on community service hours and other volunteering opportunities
   - You need 30 Community Service Hours to qualify for the Florida Gold Seal Scholarship, 75 hours to qualify for the Florida Medallion Scholarship and 100 hours to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholarship
   - Prior to volunteer meet with your school counselor for approved sites and to get desired site approved.
     You will obtain the community service form from your school counselor
8. ___Implementing ACT/SAT study and preparation plan
   - www.Majortests.com
   - www.act.org
   - www.collegeboard.org
   - www.princetonreview.com
   - www.number2.com
   - www.KhanAcademy.com
9. ___Start taking SAT, SAT Subject Tests, and/or ACT
10. ___Register for SAT, ACT, SAT Subject Tests in late fall, spring, and fall of your 12th grade year
   - Visit: http://sat.collegeboard.com/register/sat-dates
   - Visit: http://www.actstudent.org regist/date.html
   - Fee waivers available for students on free and reduced meals. Speak with your school counselor or register online
     with Collier County Public Schools
11. ___Update resume with awards, honors, paid or volunteer work, and extracurricular activities
   - Colleges want to know about leadership roles
12. ___Save work and projects samples in high school/career portfolio (shows creativity and leadership)

Complete Mid-December through February (winter):

13. ___If you did not pass the Florida Standards Assessment last year, plan to retake it this year
   - Must take tests prior to starting dual enrollment programs
14. ___Look for summer programs/offering at colleges/universities to gain real world experience
15. ___Plan to participate in an internship or volunteer opportunity during the school year or over the summer to gain real-world experience in a field of interest or potential career path
16. ___Research scholarship opportunities and criteria
• Community Foundation of Collier County: [http://www.colliercountyscholarships.org/](http://www.colliercountyscholarships.org/)
• Florida Bright Futures Scholarship Program: [www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org](http://www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org)
• Raise.me Micro Scholarships: [https://www.raise.me/](https://www.raise.me/)
• SallieMae Scholarship: [https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/college-scholarships/](https://www.salliemae.com/college-planning/college-scholarships/)

17. ____ Choose your top colleges/universities/trade schools
   • Find out what standardized tests your chosen colleges/universities prefer and accept

18. ____ Research companies that provide career development and training opportunities if you plan to go straight to work after high school

**Complete March through July (spring):**

19. ____ Plan your 12th grade academic schedule with care and consideration
   • Take as many rigorous academic subjects as you can successfully handle

20. ____ Decide on which college/university/trade school you will be applying to in early fall of 12th grade

21. ____ Visit local college and university campuses, if possible

22. ____ Start looking at college applications
   • Understand the differences between rolling admissions, and early and regular decision
   • Many colleges/universities waive application fees if you qualify for the SAT/ACT test waiver

23. ____ Find out what kind of essays and supplemental material are required for college applications
   • Develop a personal statement/essay
   • Ask teachers, counselors, coaches, or other adults for Letters of Recommendation early and give them at least a two-weeks to a month period to complete
   • Find out what standardized tests your chosen colleges/universities prefer and accept

24. ____ Prepare for FAFSA and all the steps involved
   • Determine which parent’s information will be used to complete the FAFSA [https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info](https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/parent-info)
   • Parent(s) and student must complete their tax returns to fill out FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) if required to file. Visit [https://www.irs.gov/uac/do-i-need-to-file-a-tax-return](https://www.irs.gov/uac/do-i-need-to-file-a-tax-return) to determine if you need to file taxes
   • Attend tax preparation session available throughout the community such as VITA/United Way

25. Visit: [https://fsaid.ed.gov](https://fsaid.ed.gov) and apply for a FSA ID. Your parent that is completing the FAFSA with you will also need to apply for their own FSA ID

   • If you decide to start college in summer 2021, you may qualify for aid for summer by completing the 2020-2021 FAFSA. You will also complete the 2021-2022 FAFSA (available Oct. 1, 2020) using your 2019 taxes

27. Update your resume to reflect activities done during the summer

28. Register to retake the SAT, SAT Subject Test, or ACT in August, September, or early October during 12th grade

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Last Update - June 12, 2019