

THE ROAD TO COLLEGE: A HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR CHECKLIST

FALL – AUGUST THROUGH DECEMBER

- If you are a participant in the BGSU Educational Talent Search Program or Upward Bound Program, please seek assistance from a staff member
- Make sure you are meeting high school graduation and college admissions requirements
- Confer with your parents, counselors and college recruiters about your plans for the future
- Request application materials for admissions and financial aid from colleges of interest
- Create a college file box containing separate folders for testing documents and scores, college admission and financial aid applications, correspondence from colleges, and so forth
- Apply to colleges of interest – Be aware of deadline dates
- Request your high school transcript be sent to your colleges of interest
- If you are a participant in the BGSU Educational Talent Search Program or Upward Bound Program, please submit your completed college admission applications to a staff member and a fee waiver/deferment letter will be mailed with each application
- Arrange visits to colleges of interest and schedule admissions interviews if required
- Each year, the BGSU Educational Talent Search Program and the Upward Bound Program provides transportation for a college visit or fair for program participants
- Take or retake the ACT or SAT
- If you are a participant in the BGSU Educational Talent Search Program or Upward Bound Program, please submit your completed ACT application to a staff member and a fee waiver will be mailed – may receive ONE fee waiver during your junior OR senior year
- Begin writing your essay(s) for college admission and scholarship applications – Ask for feedback from your English teacher – Then revise, revise, and revise
- Apply for scholarships – Be aware of deadline dates
- The BGSU Educational Talent Search Program and the Upward Bound Program are a comprehensive resource of scholarship opportunities for program participants
- Give recommendation forms to teachers, counselors, and other individuals from whom you are seeking references for admissions and scholarship applications at least one month before they are due – Write thank you notes to these individuals
- If you are seeking athletic scholarships, contact the coaches from your colleges of interest
- Prepare portfolios, audition tapes, writing samples or other evidence of talent required for admissions or scholarships

SPRING – JANUARY THROUGH MAY

- Attend parent/student financial aid workshops at your high school and in the community
- Apply for financial aid using the materials preferred by your college of interest
- Confirm all college admission materials have been received
- When you receive the results of your financial aid application, correct and return if necessary or sign and submit to your colleges of interest
- Submit required additional financial aid documentation to your colleges of interest
- Decide which college you are attending by the appropriate deadline and notify the college
- Meet all course registration, freshmen orientation and campus housing application deadlines
- Review your college financial aid award letter with your parent(s) and be sure that you understand the terms and conditions stated – Sign and return your award letter
- Notify the financial aid office of any outside scholarships you have received
- Be aware of due dates for tuition, room/board and other college related expenses – Discuss with the financial office if payments can be deferred until financial aid is available
- Respond immediately to all correspondence regarding college, scholarships and financial aid
- Remember that the financial aid process begins again in January of your next college year