

# St. Ambrose Academy College Checklist

## Juniors

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT, usually in October.
- Start your college search, starting with you.
  - Make lists of your abilities, preferences, and personal qualities.
  - List things you may want to study and do in college.
  - Read about different majors and careers.
  - Use difference college searches to find colleges with the rights characteristics, location, and mission.
- Start thinking about Financial Aid.
  - Speak with your parents regarding financial aid.
  - When you search for a college be sure to note the availability of financial assistance.
  - Search for scholarship opportunities online and within your community.
- Plan your spring testing schedule. You can take the SAT or the ACT (or both).
  - See the SAT schedule of test dates and register online for the SAT at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).
  - Register for the ACT at [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org).
- Get ready for the SAT and/or ACT.
  - You can visit many online resources for the SAT and ACT.
  - Take a full-length official practice test.
  - Check with the school office to see if they have paper copies of practice exams.
- Prepare for AP Exams.
  - Check with your teachers on the appropriateness of taking AP exams.
  - Registration for these tests is usually in early March. You can register online at [www.collegeboard.com](http://www.collegeboard.com).
- Plan ahead for the summer and senior year.
  - Review your senior year class schedule with a teacher or DCE. Challenge yourself with more advanced courses if possible.
  - Plan summer activities early. Enrich yourself by volunteering, getting an interesting job, or sign up for summer learning programs. Keep your momentum up this summer.
- Explore colleges.
  - Keep up your momentum this summer: start visiting local colleges, and get a feel for what works for you.
  - Develop a list of the colleges that interest you. Perhaps includes pros and cons for each.
  - Take campus tours and, at colleges you're serious about, schedule interviews with admissions counselors.
  - Request applications from college to which you'll apply. Check important dates as some universities have early dates or rolling admissions. You must be sure to have a good understanding of the application timeline of each college

# St. Ambrose Academy College Checklist

## Seniors

- Pull your application together.
  - Narrow your list of colleges to between 5 and 10 and review it with your parents, teachers or administrators. Get an application and financial aid info packet from each. Visit as many as possible.
  - Make a master calendar and note:
    - Test dates, fees, and deadlines
    - College application due dates
    - Required financial aid applications and their deadlines
    - Recommendations, transcripts, and other necessary materials
  - Ask for recommendations. Give each person your resume, a stamped, addressed envelope and any required forms.
  - Write application essays, and ask teachers, parents and friends to read and edit them.
- Apply: Early action or Early decision?
  - November 1: For early admissions, colleges may require test scores and applications in early November.
  - Ask if your college offers an early estimate of financial aid eligibility.
- Application Deadlines
  - Most regular applications are due between January 1 and February 15. Have your high school send your transcript to colleges.
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  - Contact colleges to make sure they've received all application materials.
- Get financial aid info: apply early and apply right.
  - Attend financial aid info events in your area.
  - Gather financial aid information from your list of colleges
  - Submit your FAFSA as soon after January 1 as possible. Men 18 or older must register for the selective service to receive federal financial aid.
  - Make priority financial aid deadlines which fall in February. To get the most attractive award package, apply by the priority date. Keep copies of everything you send.
- When the letters start rolling in:
  - You should get acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April
  - For questions about financial aid talk to the financial aid officers for the specific college.
  - If there is not enough aid, ask financial officers if other financing plans are available
- Make your final choice.
  - You must tell every college of your acceptance or rejection of offers of admission or financial aid by May 1. Send a deposit to the college you choose.
- Next Steps
  - Ask your high school to send a final transcript to your college.