

# College Planning Checklist

for HS Seniors/Juniors Starting Their Off-to-College Plans

| Task to be Completed                          |                                 | Month                 | Notes  |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| <b>COLLEGE PREP</b> (during Junior year)      |                                 |                       | online guide: <a href="http://www.OfftoCollege.com/prep.html">www.OfftoCollege.com/prep.html</a>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Why Go to College               | Jr Year Fall Semester |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Make a Personal Assessment      | Jr Year Fall Semester |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Decide What Kind of Major       | Jr Year Fall Semester |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Meet with Your Counselor        | Jr Year Fall Semester |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Review for Admission Tests      | Jr Winter Semester    |  |
| <b>COLLEGE SEARCH</b> (during Junior year)    |                                 |                       | online guide: <a href="http://www.OfftoCollege.com/search.html">www.OfftoCollege.com/search.html</a> |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Search for Colleges             | Jr Spring Semester    |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Visit College Campus            | Jr Spring Semester    |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Collect college information     | Junior - Senior Year  |  |
| <b>COLLEGE ADMISSION</b> (during Senior year) |                                 |                       | online guide: <a href="http://www.OfftoCollege.com/admit.html">www.OfftoCollege.com/admit.html</a>   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Prepare College Applications    | September-October     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Write Your Essays               | September-October     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Get Letters of Recommendations  | September-October     |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Finalize Your Test Scores       | October               |  |
| <b>COLLEGE FINANCING</b> (during Senior year) |                                 |                       | online guide: <a href="http://www.OfftoCollege.com/aid.html">www.OfftoCollege.com/aid.html</a>       |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Understand College Costs        | November              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Review Financial Aid Options    | November-January      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Follow the Money Path           | November-January      |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Submit FAFSA and PROFILE        | January               |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | View Financial Aid Charts       | February-May          |  |
| <b>COLLEGE MOVE</b> (during Senior year)      |                                 |                       | online guide: <a href="http://www.OfftoCollege.com/move.html">www.OfftoCollege.com/move.html</a>     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Develop Good College Skills     | On-Going              |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Find that Summer Job            | March-May             |  |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                      | Get Moving-to-College Checklist | March-September       |  |

# College Search

## Finding the Right College and Program

### UNDERSTAND TYPES OF SCHOOLS

online search: [www.OfftoCollege.com/college-search.html](http://www.OfftoCollege.com/college-search.html)

**Colleges:** generally smaller in size. They offer 4-year degree programs (BA and BS) and many 2-year Associate degrees.

**Universities:** larger institutions with specialized degrees in business, engineering, pre-med, etc. They offer 2-year, 4-year, and many graduate and professional degrees.

**Community / Junior Colleges:** a small college offering 2-year Associate degrees. Many students attend local community colleges with the intent to transfer to a larger institution to further their education.

**Online Schools:** programs and degrees that can be taken online. The advantage of these programs is that you can take classes from inside your home. These programs are great for part-time students and continuing education.

**Vocational / Career Schools:** specialized schools of training for specialized trade jobs such as mechanics, computer technicians, medical assistants, etc. Programs may vary requiring only a few weeks to complete while others may require a year or more. Upon completion, graduates will receive a license, certificate or an Associate Degree.

**Link to Begin Your College Search:** <http://www.OfftoCollege.com/search-college.html>

### HOW TO BEGIN YOUR SEARCH

online search: [www.OfftoCollege.com/college-search.html](http://www.OfftoCollege.com/college-search.html)

Assemble a list of colleges or trade schools you'd like to attend. Meet with your school's guidance counselor to discuss your plans and to arrange important campus visits.

**There are three categories of schools you should list:**

2-3 schools that you could definitely get in

4-5 schools that you could probably get in

7-8 schools that you would like to get in

You should budget on how much you can afford for application submission. If the application submission costs for 16 or more schools may be too much, narrow your search to 3-3-3.

# College Application Checklist

## Record College Admission Tasks

*list three schools that you can definitely get in*

- 1) \_\_\_\_\_
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_
- 3) \_\_\_\_\_

*list three-six schools that you would like to get in*

- 7) \_\_\_\_\_
- 8) \_\_\_\_\_
- 9) \_\_\_\_\_

*list three schools that you would probably get in*

- 4) \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) \_\_\_\_\_
- 6) \_\_\_\_\_

- 10) \_\_\_\_\_
- 11) \_\_\_\_\_
- 12) \_\_\_\_\_

*Check each task completed by school*

| online guide: <a href="http://www.OfftoCollege.com/tools.html">www.OfftoCollege.com/tools.html</a> | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|----|----|----|
| Application Materials Received   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| Campus Review / Visit Completed  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| Cost Comparison Against Other Colleges   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| Entrance Requirements Analyzed   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| Write Required Essays  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| Request Counselor & Teacher Recommendations  |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| Send Transcripts and First Semester Grades   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| Submit Financial Aid Forms   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| Submit Scholarship Forms   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| Other:   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |
| Other:   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |    |    |    |

## College Comparison Worksheet (link to [www.OfftoCollege.com](http://www.OfftoCollege.com) for college search)

| 1. School and Location               | 2. | 3. | 4. |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|
| Public or Private (2- or 4-year)     |    |    |    |
| Size (student enrollment)            |    |    |    |
| City / State (distance from home)    |    |    |    |
| Setting: Urban or Rural - Co-Ed      |    |    |    |
| <b>Academics</b>                     |    |    |    |
| Student-to-faculty ratio %           |    |    |    |
| % Classes under 20 students          |    |    |    |
| % Classes with 50+ students          |    |    |    |
| % Graduation                         |    |    |    |
| <b>Cost</b>                          |    |    |    |
| Private Tuition and Fees             |    |    |    |
| Public In-State Tuition and Fees     |    |    |    |
| Public Out-of-State Tuition and Fees |    |    |    |
| Room / Board                         |    |    |    |
| <b>Financial Aid</b>                 |    |    |    |
| Type Financial Aid Package           |    |    |    |
| \$ Average Financial Aid Package     |    |    |    |
| \$ Scholarship Package               |    |    |    |
| \$ Work Study Package                |    |    |    |
| \$ Other Financial Aid Package       |    |    |    |
| <b>Scholastic Strength</b>           |    |    |    |
| Average High School GPA              |    |    |    |
| Average Entrance Test Scores         |    |    |    |
| National Ranking                     |    |    |    |



# Student Financial Aid

## WHAT YOU MIGHT LIKE TO KNOW

### Financial Guide

SayStudent.com is part of our financial network supporting OfftoCollege and other life-event guides.

### Apply Now

[SayStudent.com/apply/](http://SayStudent.com/apply/)

### Financial Aid Charts

[SayStudent.com/charts/](http://SayStudent.com/charts/)

### Calculators

[SayStudent.com/calc/](http://SayStudent.com/calc/)

### Money Path

[SayStudent.com/money/](http://SayStudent.com/money/)

### Tools Set

[SayStudent.com/sf/](http://SayStudent.com/sf/)

 if completed

- The cost of college attendance is increasing faster than most cost indices. Student and parents are now looking at other avenues to finance college other than the standard government student loan.

Your first step is to determine what amount of financing you will need.

**Link to use our cost calculator:** [www.SayStudent.com/calc/](http://www.SayStudent.com/calc/)

- Understand the financial aid process. This requires you to file federal forms that colleges use to estimate how much financial aid the student can receive:

**Link and follow the money path:** [www.SayStudent.com/money/](http://www.SayStudent.com/money/)

- Types of Student Financial Aid that is available:

#### 1: Scholarships

you want all of the FREE money you can get. True, most scholarships awards are for athletic and academic merits. But there are other scholarships for talents and affiliations. Use a national database to begin your search.

**Link and follow the orange arrow:** [www.SayStudent.com/](http://www.SayStudent.com/)

#### 2: Federal Student Loans

the most popular form of financial aid. Federal student loans are generally processed through your college. You don't have to repay these loans until after your leave or graduate from school.

**View product features and terms:** [www.SayStudent.com/stafford.html](http://www.SayStudent.com/stafford.html)

#### 3: Federal PLUS Loans

federal loans for parents of undergraduate students. Parents can borrow up to the full cost of college attendance minus any financial aid awarded to the student.

**View product features and terms:** [www.SayStudent.com/plus.html](http://www.SayStudent.com/plus.html)

#### 4: Private Student Loans

sometimes loans, scholarships, grants, and other college aid do not cover the full cost of college, including personal expenses such as a computer. Many students are using private student loans to cover the gap.

**View product features and terms:** [www.SayStudent.com/private.html](http://www.SayStudent.com/private.html)

#### 4: Home Equity Loans

using the security of your home, you can finance college without restrictions.

**View our home equity site:** [www.YourEquity.com](http://www.YourEquity.com)

## Financial Aid Worksheet

| Type Financial Aid   | Filing Requirements   | Amount Awarded |
|--|---|----------------|
| <b>Government Grants</b>   | Determine your qualifications for government grants   |                |
| <b>Government Loans</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Subsidized</b></li> <li>• <b>Unsubsidized</b></li> </ul> link to: <a href="http://www.SayStudent.com">www.SayStudent.com</a> | Determine your expected family contribution (EFC)<br>Complete and Submit the FAFSA Form<br>Wait for your Financial Aid Eligibility Letter<br>Complete and Submit the Educational Loan Application<br>Pick up your Financial Aid Check |                |
| <b>Private Student Loans</b><br><br>link to: <a href="http://www.SayStudent.com">www.SayStudent.com</a>  | Complete and Submit Private Student Loan Application  |                |
| <b>Parent's Contribution</b><br><br>link to: <a href="http://www.SayStudent.com">www.SayStudent.com</a>  | Parents Complete and Submit PLUS Loan Application<br>Parents Complete Home Equity Line Application  |                |
| <b>Work Study Programs</b>   | Review Available On-Campus Work Study Programs<br>Complete and Submit Work Study Application Forms  |                |
| <b>Off-Campus Work</b>   | Review Classified Ads for Off-Campus Jobs<br>Complete and Submit Job Application Forms  |                |
| <b>Gifts / Savings</b>   |   |                |