COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST: 12th Grade

**Summer before 12th Grade**

- **Explore Careers and earning potential**
  - www.bls.gov/ooh/
  - www.mynextmove.org
- **Research colleges**
  - *What to look for:*
    + Admissions requirements
    + Graduation rate
    + Application Deadline
    + School demographics
    + Majors/degree programs
  - www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
  - www.collegescorecard.ed.gov
- **Research Scholarships**
  - Add application deadlines to your calendar
  - www.collegegreenlight.com
- **Register for SAT and/or ACT**
  - www.collegeboard.org
  - www.act.org
  - www.khanacademy.org/sat
- **Start Building Your Résumé**
  - Community Service
  - Employment/Internships
  - www.volunteermatch.org

**Fall Semester**

- **Complete Financial Aid Application** (www.fafsa.ed.gov)
  - Application for upcoming academic year opens **October 1st of each year**
  - Use prior-prior year tax information for FAFSA (i.e. 2016 tax info for 2018-19)
  - **DACA/Undocumented students can apply for state financial aid.** Ask an advisor about TASFA (Texas Application For State Financial Aid)
- **Apply to Colleges**
  - Understand early decision vs. early action
  - www.applytexas.org
  - www.commonapp.org
- **College Application Checklist**
  - SAT/ACT scores
  - High School Transcripts
  - Bacterial Meningitis Vaccine
  - Essay(s)
  - Résumé
  - Letter(s) of recommendation
- **Know the Four Types of Deadlines**
  - Admission
  - Financial Aid (FAFSA or TASFA)
  - Institutional Scholarship application
  - Housing application

**Spring Semester**

- **Apply for more scholarships**
- **Visit college campuses**
- **Apply for on-campus housing (if required)**
- **Access online student portals**
- **Review financial aid award offers**
  - Ask a counselor or advisor for help understanding your award
- **Notify colleges of your decision**