



college path checklist

Your college search may be a bit intimidating, especially at first. But with a little planning, it will be a rewarding journey. Use this checklist to help you stay on the right track.

Junior year

- Take challenging, rigorous courses during your last two years of high school.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT college admission test(s); note that for test-optional schools you can choose to not send your scores.
- Meet with your school counselor/college consultant.
- Begin/continue your college search:
 - Make a list of important questions to ask. Augustana's "25 Questions to Ask a College" flier offers some ideas.
 - Go to college fairs.
 - Attend college visits at your high school.
 - Ask for recommendations from friends/family.
 - Explore college websites and informational pieces.
 - Familiarize yourself with resources such as college rankings and college search sites.
 - Reflect on your priorities for your college experience.
- Visit colleges:
 - Meet with a college admissions counselor.
 - Take a tour.
 - Meet with a professor in your academic area.
 - Sit in on a class.
 - Talk with coaches, music directors and/or other leaders of college programs that interest you.
 - Look for opportunities to connect with college personnel.
 - Ask those important questions on your list.

Summer before your senior year

- Continue college visits.
- Ask friends about their first year of college.
- Organize and compare the communications you receive from colleges.
- Put together a résumé.

Senior year

- Continue a rigorous college prep curriculum.
- Retake ACT or SAT if you wish. Also take achievement tests (AP, SAT II).
- Apply to colleges early (consult your school counselor):
 - Apply online using the Common Application or school-specific applications.
 - Keep a copy of each completed application.
- Follow your high school's procedure to send the following documents to your preferred schools:
 - Transcript
 - Test scores (ACT, SAT)
 - Original writing sample (if required)
 - Recommendations (as specified by the college)
- Schedule an interview with colleges on your list.
- Follow up to make sure all application materials have been received by the college.
- Continue visiting colleges, and if you like what you see, visit again.
- Complete required financial aid materials by the deadlines; FAFSA is usually available beginning Oct. 1 (Dec. in 2023).
- Investigate scholarships that may be available at your preferred colleges (academic and co-curricular).
- Fill out additional forms required for scholarships.
- Look for local/private scholarship programs.
- Select your college by May 1.
- Send necessary deposit(s) and find out about housing.
- Notify the schools you did not select.