

12th Grade Checklist

✓ **Verify You Are On-track for Graduation and Your Diploma Type**

- Visit your counselor to learn about your credits and progress. Know your diploma and graduation requirements. Regularly update your *Career and Course Planner*!

✓ **Make a Challenging Schedule for Your Senior Year**

- Senior year is not the time to slack off with your school work! Colleges will look for rigorous and challenging 12th grade coursework. So, even though you may be "finished with your graduation requirements", take courses that will challenge you and prepare you for college coursework. Do well in those courses!

✓ **Register for College Entrance Exams**

- If you plan on attending a 4-year college or university and have not done so already, register to take the *SAT Reasoning Test* (www.collegeboard.org) and the *ACT Plus Writing Test* (www.act.org).
- Students are advised to take both exams in the spring or summer of their 11th grade year; as well as, encouraged to retake one or both of the exams during senior year in order to improve their scores.
- For test dates and locations, please visit www.collegeboard.org for the *SAT Reasoning Test* and www.act.org for the *ACT Plus Writing Test*. **Avon High School will be a test site for the ACT on September 13th and April 18th and the SAT on October 11th, January 24th, and June 6th.** **Caution: Be aware of registration deadlines.** There is also a direct link to these website on the home page in Naviance.

✓ **Participate in Extra-Curricular Activities**

- Colleges will ask what, if any, activities you have been involved in during your junior and senior year. So, if you aren't active in some sort of extra-curricular activity, now is the time to start!
- Involvement in extra-curricular activities not only engages you with your community, but shows time-management skills, self-discipline skills, citizenship skills, etc. These are all characteristics that colleges will look for in potential students.

✓ **Attend College Representative Presentations**

- College representatives will visit the high school to talk with interested seniors in the fall. Scheduled college rep visits are listed in Naviance and students must sign up to attend the visits through their Naviance Family Connection. Visits are held during SRT in the AALC, unless otherwise noted.
- If you are not able to attend a college representative presentation, then you are strongly encouraged to contact the post-secondary institution that you are interested in attending and schedule an appointment to visit that campus.

✓ **Visit College Campuses**

- If you haven't done so already, visit the college campuses to which you plan on applying. If you intend to go on a college visit during the school day, be sure to complete a *College Visit Form* and turn it into student services 5 school days prior to your scheduled visit. These forms can be obtained in the ALC Guidance office.
- Remember to take a copy of your transcript with you to show an admission counselor. This is a great opportunity to get some feedback firsthand from admission representatives regarding your credentials.
- Use the *ACT College Comparison Worksheet* compare and contrast important characteristics of the schools that you visit.
- Be sure to get an admissions application and other important materials during your visit.

✓ Apply to Post-Secondary Schools

- Visit the *SuperMatch College Search* site in Naviance to narrow your choices to 6-8 colleges. Know the admission requirements of the colleges to which you are applying! Be sure to do this early in your senior year so that you're able to discuss these choices with your guidance counselor.
- Complete all college applications during the fall of your senior year. This will allow you ample time to look into scholarship opportunities. Many colleges now encourage applicants to apply on-line in order to quicken application processing, however paper applications are still accepted. Most in-state college applications are available in the guidance office resource center or from your counselor. Any out-of-state college applications must be requested directly from that particular institution.
- **Please follow these steps when completing college applications:**

1. Complete the applications making certain that you follow their directions carefully including all required dated signatures.

2. Request your transcript through your Naviance Family Connection.

3. Complete a *College Application Checklist* and submit it to the guidance office along with any additional forms that need to be submitted.

If you apply on-line, please be sure to print out the counselor recommendation forms and attach it to the college checklist form. Admission counselors will not make admission decisions until they receive a transcript from our office.

- **Students can track their applications through their Naviance Family Connection.**

✓ Stay Up-to-date on Scholarship and Financial Aid Information

- Scholarship opportunities are received in the guidance office regularly. Always check the announcements and the scholarship list in Naviance for the latest scholarship opportunities.
- AHS will host a **Financial Aid Night on February 2, 2015** for 12th grade students and parents. An expert in financial aid will walk you through the FAFSA application process and answer questions regarding different types of financial aid (i.e. scholarships, grants, loans, etc.) Listen for announcements regarding the time and location of financial aid night. Both seniors and their parents are encouraged to attend this very important session.

****Remember, the deadline to file the FAFSA is March 1st!****

- Financial aid web pages of most colleges will list scholarship opportunities for incoming students. Other places to check for scholarship opportunities are with parents' employers and the reference section of the public library.

✓ Attend local and national college and career fairs!

- This is a great opportunity to meet with college representatives and receive information on vocational and trade schools, colleges and universities, apprenticeship programs, etc.
- Be sure to pay attention to any school announcements, flyers, and information provided by the guidance office regarding the date, time, and information about other national and/or local college and career fairs.
- **Hendricks County College and Career Fair** in the spring (Date: TBA) at the Hendricks County 4-H Fairgrounds and Conference Complex, Danville, IN.
- **National College Fair** held Tuesday, September 16th at the Convention Center, Indianapolis, IN.