



## College Applications Jumpstart To-Do Checklist

- \_\_\_(1) Am I on track academically? Will I complete my minimum 15 A-G required courses by graduation? Did I finish 11 of the 15 by the end of my junior year? (If you don't know or are unsure: Make an appointment with your counselor ASAP!!!)
- \_\_\_(2) Do I want to go to a competitive school (some of the CSUs, the UCs and many private schools) or declare a competitive major? Then will I complete the recommended courses (1 more year each in math, laboratory science and foreign language) by the end of my senior year? (Again, if you don't know or are unsure: Make an appointment with your counselor ASAP!!)
- \_\_\_(3) How are your grades? Even if your GPA isn't that great, you still have time to raise it!
- \_\_\_(4) Junior Year: Do you need to take or retake the PSAT, SAT/ACT or SAT IIs? (Take Practice ACT at home during fall of Junior Year or Pre-ACT at some schools in winter of Junior Year.)
- \_\_\_(5) Sign up for e-mail and text notifications at [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org). (Parents too!)
- \_\_\_(6) Does your class schedule reflect your commitment to preparation for the academic rigor of college?
- \_\_\_(7) Do you have over 75 hours of community service? The more the better.
- \_\_\_(8) Do you have at least one position of leadership to put on your college applications? If not, find one!
- \_\_\_(9) Do you participate in extra-curricular activities? If not, join something!
- \_\_\_(10) Do you have a good relationship with at least 2 teachers and your counselor? These are the people who will be writing letters of recommendation for you for colleges and scholarships.
- \_\_\_(11) Time to shop for colleges. Complete the Fiske handout. Use the 1-hour College Finder in the Fiske book (see below.) Explore college websites. Attend college fairs. Attend college rep visits at your high school. Visit over Breaks and Summer. (Many virtual opportunities!)
- \_\_\_(12) Work on your Personal Statements and Essays. (Rising Seniors Only)
- \_\_\_(13) Build your Achievement File.
- \_\_\_(14) Create your "Reference Binder."
- \_\_\_(15) Do you have a book that you are reading for fun? If not, get one and read it! Do you keep up with current events? If not, start!! How in the world can you write a good college essay if you don't know what is going on in the world?
- \_\_\_(16) Set up your college-dedicated email address.
- \_\_\_(17) Clean up social media; "Like" College Applications Bootcamp Facebook page to get up-to-date college news.
- \_\_\_(18) Parents: Buy (a) "Fiske Guide to Getting Into the Right College" by Fiske & Hammond and (b) "Paying for College, 2021: Everything You Need to Maximize Financial Aid and Afford College" by Princeton Review and Kalman Chany.
- \_\_\_(19) Parents: Attend ALL College Parent Programs at your high school.
- \_\_\_(20) Junior Parents and Students: Consider attending College Applications Bootcamp for the Class of 2022 starting in April 2021. (Pre-register with Karrie.)