

**CLASS OF 2019**

**GUIDE TO SENIOR  
YEAR**



# Senior Checklist

## August

- Review transcript and graduation requirements
- Register for Parchment account
- Narrow college choices
- Visit college campuses
- Register- [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com) and [www.scholarships.com](http://www.scholarships.com)
- Register NCAA/NAIA if you have not done so already.
- Register for ACT or SAT if you haven't done so or if you want to improve your score.

## September

- Visit admission representatives when they visit ACHS
- Know tests, dates, fees, deadlines for your college choices
- Complete resume, activities chart, personal statement
- Begin application and scholarship process
- Request Federal Student Aid ID (<https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid>)

## October

- FAFSA Applications open October 1<sup>st</sup>
- Take ACT/SAT
- Attend Future's Fair to visit with colleges (10/16 8:00am-3:00pm)
- ASVAB option on Test Day (10/10)
- Check on housing application
- Visit final college choices

## November

- November 1<sup>st</sup> priority deadline (KU & KSU)
- Complete and submit FAFSA as soon as possible
- November 15<sup>th</sup> priority deadline (Fort Hays State)

## December

- December 1<sup>st</sup> priority deadline (WSU)
- Check status of FAFSA ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov) or 1-800-433-3243)
- Complete admissions applications
- Take ACT one final time if needed

## January

- Send mid-year transcripts and reports if needed

## February

- Continue with scholarship applications
- February 1<sup>st</sup> priority deadline (Pitt State)
- February 15<sup>th</sup> priority deadline (Emporia State and Washburn)

## March

- Financial aid award letter may be coming

## April

- Preview financial aid award letters
- Make final college decision, send in - deposit
- Notify other colleges of your decision

## May

- Take AP Tests
- Send final transcripts—high school and college (ie. Butler)
- Graduate!

## Important Dates for Seniors

September 8, 2018	ACT Test
September 12, 2018	Financial Aid Night at ACHS 6:30pm
September 24, 2018	No School (College visit day?)
October 1, 2018	Federal Financial Aid (FAFSA) application opens
October 6, 2018	SAT Test
October 10, 2018	No School for Seniors unless taking ASVAB (College visit day?)
October 10, 2018	ACT Prep at ACHS 5:50pm-9:50pm
October 16, 2018	Futures Fair at WSU Koch Arena 8:00am-3:00pm
October 17, 2018	Parent-Teacher Conferences (5-8pm)
October 18, 2018	Parent-Teacher Conferences (7:30am-3:00pm)
October 18, 2018	No School (College visit day?)
October 19, 2018	No School (College visit day?)
October 27, 2018	ACT Test
November 1, 2018	Priority Deadline for KU and KSU Scholarships
November 3, 2018	SAT Test
November 5, 2018	No School (College visit day?)
November 15, 2018	Priority Deadline for Fort Hays State Scholarships
December 1, 2018	Priority Deadline for WSU Scholarships
December 1, 2018	SAT Test
December 8, 2018	ACT Test (typically last one students can use for scholarships)
December 18-20, 2018	Finals
February 1, 2019	Priority deadline for Pittsburg State Scholarships
February 9, 2019	ACT Test
February 15, 2019	Priority deadline for Emporia State and Washburn Scholarships
March TBD, 2019	AP Test Sign-Up
March 9, 2019	SAT Test
April 13, 2019	ACT Test
April 24, 2019	Senior Honors Program (7pm ACHS auditorium)
May 14-15, 2019	Senior Finals
May 19, 2019	Graduation!

## Stay Connected

ACHS: 316-218-4700

Lisa Stinson (A-G), Laura Scaglione (H-P), and Erin Eilert (Q-Z)

[stinsonl@usd385.org](mailto:stinsonl@usd385.org), [scagliol@usd385.org](mailto:scagliol@usd385.org), and [eilerte@usd385.org](mailto:eilerte@usd385.org)

Emails will be sent with updates throughout the year from us. Make sure your email is correct in Powerschool!

Vicki Goertzen (registrar/helps with transcripts)

[goertzev@usd385.org](mailto:goertzev@usd385.org)

ACHS Counselor's Corner Website

Updated throughout the year (especially scholarships)

<http://achs.usd385.org/>

### Helpful Hints to Help Guide You This Year

- ☺ The student should be doing most of the work—**not the parent!**
  - ☺ You can never know it all!
  - ☺ There are never too many questions you can ask.
- ☺ Contact your potential schools and keep their contact information.
  - ☺ Research, visit and then visit again if needed.
  - ☺ Find a good match for YOU and your family!
- ☺ Academics, career field, financial needs, and social aspects should all be considered.
  - ☺ Stay organized! Keep track of deadlines and requirements.
  - ☺ Keep a copy of everything you send in.

### What Are My Options After I Graduate?

1. Workforce/on the job training
2. Technical/trade schools
3. 2 year colleges
4. 4 year colleges/universities
5. Military

**Remember, there are thousands of colleges out there, each with their own requirements and policies. The information below is not all inclusive. The best way to get answers to your questions, will be to contact the college directly!**

**Research and Visit** [http://achs.usd385.org/page/73757\\_2](http://achs.usd385.org/page/73757_2)

- Possible dates to visit: 9/24, 10/10, 10/18, 10/19, 11/5
- The best way to know if a school is a good fit is to get on campus and ask questions.
- If you are not able to visit, research as much as possible (website) and call if you have specific questions.
- Every college is different so it's important to ask questions!
- Pay attention to application and/or scholarship requirements, deadlines, majors available (Does your major have specific requirements?), tuition and fees, etc.
- Look up your potential major's four year plan. What courses are required?
- Types of visits—Group, Special Events, Individual
  - Group visits (ie. Senior days) are general and with many other students.
  - Individual visits are specific to you and you are typically able to set up meetings with faculty in academic majors/colleges as well as financial aid and admissions representatives. More time to ask specific questions and get more detailed information.
- Setting Up a Visit
  - Many colleges allow you to set up visits online. Visit their website to learn more.
  - Call the admissions office.
- Colleges and different branches of military will visit ACHS. Great time to hear general information and ask questions. Sign up in the counseling office once they are advertised.
- Futures Fair—October 16 at WSU Koch Arena 8:00am-3:00pm
- When going on a visit, call the front office like any other absence to excuse your son/daughter. The absence does count towards total number of absences for the semester.
- See the handout "Top Questions to Guide you to the Perfect College"
- Social media—Like their Facebook page or follow them on Twitter to get updates. Sometimes students have earned scholarships from following them.

**Application Information**

- Review admissions requirements (GPA, test scores, curriculum, etc)
- Deadlines!!! Pay attention to priority scholarship deadlines as well.
  - KU/KSU—Nov. 1 and WSU—Dec. 1
- Fill out the general first-time freshmen application for admissions.
  - Do they have an essay? (see essay rubric handout)
  - Do they require letters of recommendation?
  - It's helpful to have a resume and transcript with you when filling it out.
  - Many schools will require an official transcript to be sent to them (see next section).
- Is there a separate scholarship application?
- Apply even if you plan to take the ACT again. Most colleges will honor new scores up to a certain date for scholarship consideration.

- Application fees! Fee waivers may be available for those on free/reduced lunch. Check with your potential school to see if they are available.
- Update your application at semester if needed or required (ie. GPA or test scores).
- Early decision vs early action (typically for selective schools)—Talk with your counselor and admissions representative to learn more.
- Common Application—used by many out-of-state schools. See your counselor if you have questions.

## Transcripts

- Many colleges require you to send official transcripts once you apply.
- Request them through Parchment (<http://www.parchment.com/>). Access codes were given to each student to set up the account.
- Should be free! If there is a fee or you cannot find your school, please see Mrs. Goertzen.
- A final transcript will be sent at the end of the school year to the school you plan to attend.
- ACT/SAT scores are printed on the back of the transcript.
- Don't forget Butler transcripts! They will need to be sent from Butler at the end of the school year. (<http://www.butlercc.edu/request-a-transcript>)

## Letters of Recommendation

- Do not ask for one unless you know for sure that you need one.
- Give the information to the recommender ahead of time and make sure you give them at least 2 weeks to complete it.
- It's helpful to give them a copy of your resume, list of accomplishments, and any other helpful information that will help them write the recommendation ([recommendation form is available on our website under Grade Level Information](#))
  - What is the recommendation for? Anything in particular that must be included or should be focused on? Deadline?
- Send them a thank you! 😊

## ACT/SAT [http://achs.usd385.org/page/73672\\_2](http://achs.usd385.org/page/73672_2)

- All schools will accept the ACT or SAT.
  - Some may require SAT subject tests or the ACT with Writing.
  - Research your school(s) to know which one you will need!
- Ask potential schools what test dates can be used for possible scholarship consideration as well as admissions.
- Your ACHS transcript will have test scores on the back and will be sent when transcripts are requested.
  - Some colleges accept them from our transcript and others will want the scores directly from ACT or CollegeBoard.
  - Every college views scores differently. Do they take the absolute highest composite? Do they superscore? Do they look at all tests taken? Do they look at subscores for departmental scholarships?
- Is it worth it to take again?
  - How close are you to the next level of scholarship? For admissions?
  - How many times have you taken it? If only once, might be worth to take it again.
  - Are you willing to do the prep work to prepare?

- Colleges may grant credit depending on your ACT subject score.
  - Ie. WSU will grant students 3 hours of ENG 101 if they receive a 31 on the English section of the ACT.
  - Contact the college to find out what policies they have in place for granting credit.
- Test Prep—visit our website for opportunities available (link above)
- Fee waivers are available for those on free/reduced lunch.
  - Students register for the ACT and SAT online [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)  
[www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)

### **Scholarships** [http://achs.usd385.org/75533\\_2](http://achs.usd385.org/75533_2)

- Looking for scholarships is like a part-time job. It can be very time consuming depending on how many you search and apply for.
  - Scholarships are available all year long!
- Most of the scholarships you earn come directly from the college.
  - Merit based, athletic/activities, service, leadership, departmental, etc.
  - Search the college and department website to see what is available.
- Many outside agencies have scholarships available (local and national).
- Don't forget to check with your employer and church for possible scholarships.
- Notifications for many scholarships are sent to our office. We will post them on our website as we get them.
- Most popular search engines include [fastweb.com](http://fastweb.com) and [scholarships.com](http://scholarships.com) (other popular sites are listed on our website).
- Make sure you read all of the requirements needed for the scholarship and turn it in ON TIME!
  - Proof read your application and make sure it is neat and organized.
- Overall—look at your potential school's website, our website, check with employers/church, utilize search engine sites (ie. Fastweb), and search the internet.
- Social media—follow your school on Twitter or Facebook
- Scholly App for your phone (\$2.99)
- [Raise.me](http://Raise.me)

### **FAFSA (Federal Financial Aid)** [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

- Students may receive grants, loans, or work study opportunities.
- Applications are available beginning October 1.
- You will use your 2017 tax information when filling it out.
- Many resources are available to help you if you have questions.
  - [http://achs.usd385.org/page/73775\\_2](http://achs.usd385.org/page/73775_2)
- Financial Aid Night at ACHS—September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm
- Pay attention to your potential school's deadline for submitting the FAFSA.
- Contact your potential school's financial aid office for help with any questions you may have.
- Fill out even if you think you won't qualify
  - Some colleges have specific grants or scholarships available to students that have filled out the FAFSA.
- Award letters typically sent in March/April from each school you applied to.

## Transfer Credit

- Every school accepts transfer credit differently.
- Talk with your potential school to make sure your classes will transfer.
- Many schools have a transfer equivalency link on their website to search courses and how they will transfer to their school.
- Will the grade transfer or just the credit?
- Does it count towards your GPA at your new school or is it listed separately?
- AP Credit
  - Does the school give you a grade for the score you received or does it just give you credit?
  - What score do you need to get credit?
- Remember, some will grant credit for high ACT scores or exempt you from certain classes.
- Be careful of certain departments/majors not accepting credits. (ie. Engineering degrees may not take BCC Calculus)
- CLEP Exams—Students may take these to possibly test out of certain classes
  - Check with your college to see what is available and what will be accepted.
  - <https://clep.collegeboard.org/>

## NCAA/NAIA [http://achs.usd385.org/page/73686\\_2](http://achs.usd385.org/page/73686_2)

- Make sure you have registered on one or both sites if you are hoping to be recruited to play a sport in college.
- Certain GPA and course requirements must be met (handouts/links on our website).

## Military <http://www.defense.gov/Military-Services/Uniformed-Services>

- If you are interested in any branch of the military, make sure you are talking with a recruiter to see what needs to be completed.
- ASVAB test—October 10<sup>th</sup> at AHS or contact a recruiter
- Search ROTC programs offered at colleges.
- National Guard vs. Active Military

## Career/Major

- It is okay to not have a set career in mind when going to college!
- Utilize career inventories to help guide you (ie. Career Cruising).
- Colleges have career centers on campus—great resources!
- Many links on our website to search majors and careers ([http://achs.usd385.org/page/75241\\_2](http://achs.usd385.org/page/75241_2))

Last but not least.....

**ENJOY YOUR SENIOR YEAR!!!**