

Checklist for Going to College



Before Senior Year

- Take practice ACT/SAT
- Visit colleges while driving to vacation destination – small vs. large
- Use Niche.com to compare colleges
- Weigh the options of ED'ing to a school
- Consider keeping a digital locker such as Naviance.com or OneNote of all high school accomplishments
- Look at state reciprocal colleges at www.MHEC.org for participating MO colleges
- Work with high school college counselor on college essays
- Visiting colleges in your city is an inexpensive way to give you an idea of private vs. public, urban vs. rural
- For merit-based scholarships, consider an ACT tutor
- Fill out the FAFSA form. Upload your tax forms for easier access
- Save FAFSA password, information can be used with other children
- Open 529 plan, even if the child is in college. Take the state tax deduction
 - www.missourimost.org/home/529-features/tax-advantages.html
- Missouri is a parity state. Any state's plan allows for the state deduction

During Senior Year

- To ED or not to ED?
- Fine tune college essay at the beginning of senior year
- Pay attention to the housing and meal plan. Cost matters
- Keep investing in 529 plan. Make sure allocations are appropriate
- Visit, visit, visit
- Make sure to visit your college during bad weather months as well as visiting the student union center to get an idea of the campus culture
- Sign up for all things regarding "Incoming Freshmen" at your new college

After Senior Year

- Be mindful of transfer scholarships if you should change universities
- Financial aid is not set in stone. You are always eligible to write a letter to the financial aid office requesting an increase of your scholarship amount.
- Keep investing in the 529 plan – state deduction!

**Visit our website
and schedule an
appointment:**



Contact Us: 314-394-1670 ext 2138 | www.nextchapterwm.com

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