

Senior Calendar and Checklist

Parents--Step by step, you can help your child make informed decisions about his or her education, do well academically, learn about colleges, and find the best possible opportunities for a college education. Following is a checklist that is designed to help you and your child, throughout the senior year, progress toward preparing for post secondary options -- both academically and financially. The list speaks directly to your child, although he or she may need your help.

May-June:

- Register to take the ACT or SAT Exam.

August-September:

- Make sure your courses will meet college/post secondary requirements.
- Monitor your progress toward earning the Millennium Scholarship and understand what is needed to remain qualified. <http://nevadatreasurer.gov/millennium/>
- Register online for the ACT/SAT if not taken as a junior or if not satisfied with scores.
- Research apprenticeship programs, technical trade schools and military options.
- Utilize the Nevada Career Information System (NCIS) to investigate current career and educational information. www.nvcis.intocareers.org
- Ask appropriate community leaders, counselor, and /or teachers to write recommendations for you. Ask early in the year before college and scholarship applications deadlines. Follow the scholarship procedures, as outlined on the DHS website, for the procedure for requesting recommendations.
- Begin applications for college and scholarships. Organize files, photocopy applications and begin to fill out rough drafts. Pay particular attention to deadlines. Many competitive colleges often have November deadlines for regular admissions. Many college applications may be completed online.
- Create your DHS scholarship file. Find the scholarship application process on the DHS website. www.dcsd.k12.nv.us/dhs Watch for deadlines!
- Athletes must be cleared to play sports at Division I and II colleges. Register online for the NCAA Clearinghouse. www.ncaaclearinghouse.net
- Apply for ROTC Scholarships.
- Initiate contact with coaches regarding athletic scholarship opportunities. Prepare a resume and/or video to highlight athletic talent.
- Attend college visitations on campus.
- Consider sending in "early decision" and "early action" applications. Be sure you and your parents understand the meaning of these terms.
- Apply for on-campus housing and pay for necessary deposits.
- Write letters to college financial aid offices requesting information and applications for scholarships and financial aid. Remember the best sources of money is college-based.
- Sign up to take the SAT/ACT Workshop.

Continue to:

- Maintain college prep curriculum, including advanced Math and English.
- Maintain excellent attendance at school--and be on time for all classes!
- Volunteer for community and/or school service.
- Maintain or improve your cumulative grade point average--good grades will give you the most opportunities following high school.
- Check out the DHS website for updated testing, college, and post-secondary options and information on parent/student informational meetings. www.dcsd.k12.nv.us/dhs

October:

- If planning to attend Western Nevada College, make sure you are signed-up to participate in the "Bridge to Success" program.
- Search for scholarships in the Financial Aid Sort Program in the Nevada Career Information System (NCIS) www.nvcis.intocareers.org
- Make sure you have a social security number which is required on many college and financial aid applications.
- Attend college/career representative presentations at school.
- Compare colleges and reduce list to approximately five schools.
- Apply for In-State College/University Scholarships - November 15 Priority deadline at UNR.
- Consider taking the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB).
- Discuss with your parents the need to have their most recent year tax return completed as early as possible since this information will be needed to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

November:

- This is the last chance to register for ACT/SAT I to be considered for most scholarships and Nevada Scholars Award.
- Work hard to get the best grades possible! Colleges and scholarship donors will definitely be looking at your grades during your senior year.
- Gather financial records and get financial counseling, if needed.
- Continue to apply for scholarships. Watch deadlines.
- Apply to UNR or UNLV - February 1 deadline.

December:

- Attend the Financial Aid Night at school. (December or January) Dates and times will be posted on the DHS website. www.dcsd.k12.nv.us/dhs
- Get involved in a holiday community service activity.
- Apply to UNR or UNLV - February 1 deadline.
- Continue to apply for scholarships. Watch deadlines.
- Continue to research open application period for apprenticeships and technical/trade schools. apply if applicable.

January:

- Complete and submit university/college-based scholarships and financial aid forms. Most are due in February.
 - Work with your parents to complete the FAFSA after January 1. It is best to submit it electronically - www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - Study for finals! Attend free DHS tutoring options after school.
 - Monitor your progress toward earning the Millennium Scholarship and NCAA requirements and understand what is needed to remain qualified. <http://nevadatreasurer.gov/millennium/>
 - If you are interested, learn more about AmeriCorps, www.americorps.org.
 - Make sure your courses will meet college/post secondary requirements.
 - Make sure you sign up for Bridge to Success if attending WNC in the fall.

February:

- UNR deadline for scholarships is February 1st.
- Bridge to Success with WAC will take place. WNC Field Trip.

- Complete WNC and/or TMCC college and scholarship applications. Scholarship applications are due in early April. tmcc.edu wnc.edu
- Review 7th semester grades; make sure you are on target to graduate. Explore options with your counselor to retrieve credits if necessary.
- Update your resume/scholarship file with transcripts that include first semester grades.
- Request the registrar to send 7th semester transcripts to colleges that request them.
- Be sure that your midyear report, if requested has gone out to the colleges to which you have applied.
- Check that the college has received all required application and financial aid information.
- Apply for housing.
- Some college acceptance letters may arrive.
- If planning to attend Western Nevada College, sign-up for "Bridges to Success" program to apply, take placement tests, and register for classes.

March:

- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- Watch for the Student Aid Report (SAR) to arrive, giving the amount of student aid for which you are eligible. This report is generated from your FAFSA. Make sure your colleges receive it.
- Most college acceptance letters will arrive.
- Contact possible colleges and arrange on-campus visits during spring break. Remember to write thank you notes.
- Complete WNC and TMCC college and scholarship applications. Scholarship applications are due in early April.

April:

- Continue to apply for scholarships.
- If you are unsure about your post-secondary plans, discuss options with your counselor.
- Make-up proficiency or district level tests/competencies if necessary.
- Review your acceptances and financial aid offers.
- Make decision on which college to attend and send tuition deposit.
- Notify colleges not chosen.
- Find out when payments for tuition, dormitory and meal plans are due.
- Enjoy the last months in high school!

May:

- Take Advance Placement exams.
- Send thank you notes to teachers, counselor, and anyone who helped by writing recommendations/college application reports.
- Attend Awards Night.
- Send thank you notes to scholarship donors.
- Attend all advising days, open houses, orientation programs, and registration offered by the college.
- Read books on how to survive in college - physically, emotionally, and academically.
- Enroll in summer Freshman Orientation Session or Freshman Experience.
- Inquire about Math/English Placement Exams required for enrollment in freshman classes.
- Check the school calendar for end of school activities.
- Request the registrar to mail a final copy of your transcripts to your college.
- Notify the college of private grants or scholarships
- Consider obtaining a summer job or internship that is related to your career interests--check the job board by the counseling office.
- Graduate! Congratulations!
- Enjoy your summer!
- Complete and return the Millennium Scholarship Award packet (even if you are not planning to attend college in state).