



Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated®



TOOLKIT

(2020-2021)

DR. GLENDA GLOVER
SUPREME BASILEUS

NAME: _____ CLASS OF: _____

WELCOME MESSAGE

Hey there!

First, we want to congratulate you on your academic success leading to graduation and preparing for #adulthood. We know college may be the last thing you're worried about, but you have to put in as much time and effort as you do planning your prom-posal. Have you considered college? Are you a first-generation college student? Do you have concerns about how to apply? Are you worried about the financial burden? Are you aware of resources available to you? Well, this #CAPSM Toolkit has many of the answers for you!

The #CAPSM Toolkit has been developed as a resource for students like yourself to implement strategies as you prepare to further your education by attending a college or university. This toolkit will include information on scholarships, financial aid "To-Dos", SAT and ACT resources, essay and application tips, and a college admission checklist. As you research colleges and universities, we want to encourage you to apply to Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Not only do HBCUs have a rich history, they also prepare students professionally and personally throughout their academic career to be ready for the adult world.

This resource will guide you through the admissions process and hopefully help you get accepted into a college or university!

Good luck and we hope you have another successful school year!

MESSAGE FROM DR. GLENDA GLOVER

INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT, ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INCORPORATED®



Dear Student/Parent:

Time to apply to college! These words strike fear in the hearts of many high school juniors, seniors and parents alike. Members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® do not want students and parents to fret or to break out into a cold sweat when thinking about college. We believe the more you know about the college application process, the better prepared you will be to manage the stress and, ultimately, to enroll in college.

In my role as a college president, I have encountered so many young people who possess all of the talent to gain admission to college. But I also have discovered that many of them are would-be, first-generation college students and their parents simply have not been equipped with the tools to help them navigate the college admissions process. That is where we step in.

Whether you are a would-be, first-generation college student or you simply need assistance in better understanding how to navigate all of the elements of college admission from the application process to housing and applying for financial aid and scholarships, we want to help you. To do that, we have compiled a comprehensive guide to the college admissions process known as The #CAPSM Toolkit.

#CAP SM is an acronym that stands for college admissions process. Through this toolkit, we will demystify the college admissions process and help you gain admission to college and enroll. The #CAPSM Toolkit explores important aspects of the admissions process such as:

- How to go about researching schools and creating a short list;
- An overview of standardized test preparation, registration and testing;
- How to write a great essay;
- The financial aid application process;
- Who is responsible for which task; and
- Considerations when deciding which college to attend.

Research shows that college graduates make more than twice as much as people who do not graduate from college. So, why not make an investment in your future today by taking advantage of this opportunity to set you on the path to success and living the kind of life you about which you have dreamed. After all, it is your life and this is your opportunity to get off to a good start. Take advantage of it! The members of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated® are committed to helping you achieve your goal of college admission, and we look forward to helping you enroll in college!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenda Glover".

Glenda Glover, Ph.D.
International President



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#CAPSM APPLICATION



#CAPSM Program Student Application Form

Applicant Information

NAME: _____
 Last Name First Name Middle Initial

ADDRESS: _____
 Street City State ZIP

PHONE/EMAIL: _____
 Phone Number Cell Number Email

Date of Birth (MM/DD/YY): _____ Gender: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Grade Level: ☐ 11th (Junior) ☐ 12th (Senior)

HIGH SCHOOL NAME: _____
 Last Name First Name Middle Initial

HIGH SCHOOL ADDRESS: _____
 Street City State ZIP

Current GPA (if applicable) Cumulative GPA: _____

CAREER INTERESTS (check all that apply):

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture, Food Processing & Natural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Hospitality & Tourism |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Architecture, Industrial Design, CAD | <input type="checkbox"/> Human Services (e.g., Social Work, Psychology, Counseling) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Audio/Visual Technology Management & Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Information Technology, Computer Science |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Management, Process Management, Human Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Law |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Business Office Administration/Support Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Marketing, Advertising, Promotion |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military Services (e.g., Army, Marines, Navy, or Reserves) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Training, Library Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Performing & Fine Arts, Graphic Design, Fashion Design |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering, Mathematics, Research/Science (STEM) | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Safety, Corrections & Security |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Finance, Banking, Accounting | <input type="checkbox"/> Sales |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Government, Public Administration, Planning, Transportation, Distribution & Logistics | <input type="checkbox"/> Vocational: (e.g., Automotive, Cosmetology, Construction, Industrial Trades, Technician) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Science (Medicine, Dentistry, Nursing, Pharmacy) | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Parental/Legal Guardian Information

NAME: _____
 Last Name First Name Middle Initial

ADDRESS: _____
 Street City State ZIP

PHONE/EMAIL: _____
 Phone Number Cell Number Email

Emergency Contacts

NAME: _____
 Last Name First Name Last Name First Name

PHONE/EMAIL: _____
 Phone Number Email Phone Number Email



Parental Consent & Responsibility Form

As the parent or legal guardian of _____
(hereinafter to as “she” or “her” or “he” or “his”), I hereby certify and affirm the following:

1. I understand all #CAPSM activities and sessions may be virtual.
2. I am legally entitled to give consent for her/his participation in the #CAPSM program.
3. I acknowledge that she/he will be enrolled in 11th or 12th grade in good academic standing.
4. I am aware that upon application to the #CAPSM program, I must provide a copy of her/his most recent grade report.
5. I understand that her/his personal and private information will not be shared with any individuals, agencies or institutions without my written consent.
6. I understand that she/he will be involved with workshops and activities that seek to prepare her/him for the #CAPSM admissions process and #CAPSM which may also include community service and cultural enrichment activities.
7. I understand that it is my responsibility to make sure that she/he is present at all scheduled activities.
8. I authorize permission for her/him to attend all #CAPSM excursions that are off-site from the regular meeting place.
9. I understand that guests (i.e., younger siblings, friends, un-enrolled students) should not be brought to the meeting or activities without prior consent or knowledge of the #CAPSM program personnel.
10. I understand that her/his admission and participation in the program is voluntary and may be terminated by any party of this agreement at any time.
11. I authorize the #CAPSM program personnel to transport her/him (or arrange transportation) to a hospital or medical facility in the event that I cannot be reached and authorize consent to examination, care and treatment as deemed necessary by a licensed physician or dentist.
12. I understand that she/he may be photographed or videotaped during the program meetings and activities and give my consent for use of such images by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® and the #CAPSM program personnel in print or electronic media used to promote the program.
13. I understand that as the parent or legal guardian, I may be called upon to attend a mandatory parental orientation, periodic meetings and program activities. In the event I cannot attend, I agree to send an adult representative in my place.
14. I relieve Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® and #CAPSM program personnel from any liability that may arise during her/his involvement in the #CAPSM program meetings and activities.
15. I understand that this form will be kept on file by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® and the #CAPSM program personnel.
16. Termination of a student's involvement in #CAPSM will be in writing.

By affixing my signature below, I certify that I have read all of the above information and agree with the provisions and my role and responsibilities.

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN PRINTED NAME

RELATIONSHIP TO APPLICANT/PARTICIPANT

PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN SIGNATURE

DATE

CONTACT NUMBER

EMAIL



Student Code of Conduct & Responsibility Contract

As a participant of the #CAPSM program:

1. I understand #CAP activities and sessions may be virtual.
2. I agree to abide by the rules and regulations set forth by the #CAPSM personnel and to conduct myself with respect.
3. I agree to be cooperative and follow instructions ensuring that I respect adults and all #CAPSM personnel.
4. I will not bully or participate in negatively speaking to or of anyone nor act in a violent manner.
5. I will provide a copy of my recent grade report with the application and upon request of the #CAPSM personnel.
6. I will remain in good academic standing.
7. I understand that I must notify the #CAPSM program personnel of any absence from Program activities.
8. I understand that my personal and private information will not be shared with any individuals, agencies or institutions without my parent's written consent.
9. I will participate in workshops and activities that seek to prepare me for the CAPSM admissions process.
10. I will be fully engaged in attending program meeting and activities that may include civic and cultural activities.
11. I understand that I cannot bring guests to meetings or activities without prior consent or knowledge of the #CAPSM program personnel.
12. I understand my admission and participation in the program is voluntary and maybe terminated by any party of this agreement at any time.
13. I understand that I may be photographed or videotaped during the program meetings and activities for use of such images to be used by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® and #CAPSM program personnel in print or electronic media for promotion of the program.
14. I understand that this form will be kept on file by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.® and the #CAPSM program personnel.
15. I will evaluate the #CAPSM program when requested

By affixing my signature below, I certify that I have read all of the above information and agree with code of conduct and responsibilities as a participant of the #CAPSM program.

STUDENT/APPLICANT PRINTED NAME

STUDENT/APPLICANT SIGNATURE

DATE

CONTACT NUMBER

EMAIL



#CAPSM APPLICATION



#CAPSM Pre/Post-Assessment Form

Name: _____

Using the scale that follows, please choose the number that best describes your response to the items below.

1 = STRONGLY DISAGREE • 2 = DISAGREE • 3 = NEUTRAL • 4 = AGREE • 5 = STRONGLY AGREE

- | | | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. I know very little about the best place to start for the college admission process. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2. I am familiar with Coalition, Common, and Universal college applications. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3. I plan to apply to more than one college for admission. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4. I know that some colleges have both an online and paper application process. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5. I plan to apply to colleges that I cannot afford. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6. Additional materials are often requested with my college application. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7. I must decide on my major before applying to college. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8. I should apply for financial aid even if I don't think I qualify. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 9. My parents' tax return has no bearing on my dependency status. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 10. I should not apply to a college if my admission-test scores and grades are below the college's published ranges. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

Please provide the following information:

- Gender: _____
- Race/Ethnicity: _____
- Are you from a: Rural Area Urban Area Suburban Area
- Do you participate in other activities outside of school? If so, please list those activities.

5. What type of high school do you attend:

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public | <input type="checkbox"/> Parochial | <input type="checkbox"/> Home school |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Private | <input type="checkbox"/> College prep | <input type="checkbox"/> Other |

6. What is the makeup of the student population at the high school you attend?

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Majority Hispanic | <input type="checkbox"/> Majority African American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Majority White/Caucasian | <input type="checkbox"/> Majority Asian American |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Equal Mix of All Groups | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> All Female | <input type="checkbox"/> All Male |

7. Do you participate in a college preparatory program (e.g., magnet, honors, etc.)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

8. Do you take courses outside of your regular high school classes (e. g., Saturday classes, college courses)? ☐ Yes ☐ No

If yes, please specify what types: _____

You finally made it! As you prepare to walk across the stage and make your family proud, don't forget you still have to get ready for college. Many students do not realize that your senior year is just as important as your junior year. On this page you will find tips and information on how to make this a productive and successful senior year!

TIPS FOR YOUR SENIOR YEAR AND PREPARING FOR COLLEGE!

- Don't let Senior-itis tempt you into skipping class or stop you from completing assignments.
 - If you miss a certain number of days of class, then your school may prohibit you from graduating.
 - Colleges still require your final transcript, so if they see you barely passed classes your senior year they may take your scholarship away or deny your acceptance to that school.
- Get involved or continue to be involved in extracurricular activities and organizations at school.
 - Not only does this look good on college applications, but it will allow you to meet new friends and participate in an activity you enjoy.
- Participate in Senior Activities and raise your school spirit.
- Complete college applications early, so you can enjoy your senior year!
- Don't compare yourself to others.
- Celebrate accomplishments throughout the year.
 - Graduating high school is a big deal! Celebrate that you have made it this far!
- Reinvent yourself.
 - Be open to new experiences and don't be afraid to step outside your comfort zone.
 - Become the person you've always wanted to be and don't let anyone stop you.
- Realize that you may not have all of life's questions figured out quite yet.
 - In college, you are able to change your major and courses. Don't feel like you have to stick to one path.
- Make useful connections.
 - Reach out to individuals for mentoring and for internships.
- Plan ahead as best as you can.
 - This will help alleviate stress and help you feel more in control.
 - You don't have to worry about what will happen tomorrow or next week.
 - Stay true to your word and be accountable to your promises
- Be productive.
 - Find where you need to be more proactive.

You will hear repeatedly that your junior year is your most important year of high school; and they're right! When you apply to college you will be reporting all your GPA, accolades, and involvements up to your junior year. So make this year count by following some of the suggestions and utilizing resources on this page to prepare you for a successful admissions process!

TIPS FOR YOUR JUNIOR YEAR AND PREPARING FOR COLLEGE!

- Take Advanced Placement (AP) classes.
 - Not only does taking rigorous courses look good on your college application, but you can receive college credits if you score well on your end-of-the-year AP exams.
- Even if you have a good GPA, that doesn't mean you shouldn't prepare to take standardized tests like the SAT and ACT.
 - Use the SAT and ACT official test websites to develop study methods, to register for tests, and to access and send score reports to colleges.
- Begin creating a college list.
 - Review majors and programs in your areas of interest at different colleges.
 - Consider the size and location of the school.
 - Take into account the colleges' campus life such as dining halls, dorms, student life, or Greek Life.
 - How you will pay for college should also be considered when applying.
 - Plan a college tour to view the campus first hand.
 - Attend college fairs to gain information on various schools and what they each have to offer.
- Learn how to effectively balance your time.
 - Don't let your grades suffer because of extracurricular activities and don't be afraid to get involved in organizations just to earn a high GPA.
- Get organized.
 - You will become overwhelmed with test prep materials, homework, and college brochures; create a system to keep your room clutter free!
- Meet with your Guidance Counselor!
 - They have helped countless students before you get into college.
 - Meet with them to ensure you are on the right track to graduate on time and use them as a resource during the admissions process.
- Start searching for scholarships now.
 - There are several scholarships that juniors can apply for.
 - Check out and prepare for scholarships you can apply for during your senior year.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities.
 - By playing sports, becoming a thespian, or getting involved in Student Government you are elevating your college application.
 - Become a part of at least two extracurricular activities.
- Finally, relax!
 - Enjoy your junior year of high school and create lasting memories with your friends.

Did you take the SAT or ACT towards the end of your junior and wonder if your scores are competitive enough or if you need to retake exams?

- Check out each college's website to see the latest freshman class average score on the SAT and ACT.
- A 1060 or higher on the SAT is considered above average and competitive for colleges.
 - The SAT percentile you receive means you scored higher than that amount of students (i.e. if you scored in the 55th percentile, then you scored higher than 55% of students).
- A 20 or higher on the ACT is considered above average and competitive for colleges.
 - The ACT percentile you receive means you scored higher than that amount of students (i.e. if you scored in the 55th percentile, then you scored higher than 55% of students).

HAVE YOU NOT TAKEN THE SAT OR ACT? OR DID YOU NOT RECEIVE THE SCORE YOU NEED? WELL IT'S NOT TOO LATE!

2020-2021 SAT Test Dates:

August 29, September 26, October 3, November 7, December 5, March 13, May 8, and June 5

If you are applying Early Decision, then November is your latest test date

2020-2021 ACT Test Dates:

September 12, 13, 19; October 10, 17, 24, 25; December 12; February 6; April 17; June 12; and July 17

If you are applying Early Decision, then October is your latest test date

TIPS FOR THE SAT AND ACT

- When practicing for the SAT or ACT do not flip back and forth after each question to the answer section; complete a section or a page before checking your answers.
- Eliminate incorrect answers to get to the correct answer.
- Complete easier questions first, then return to the more difficult questions or questions you marked.
- If you are unsure of an answer, then guess! There is no penalty for guessing.
- TRUST YOURSELF!

RESOURCES FOR THE SAT AND ACT

- www.collegeboard.org
 - Review this website to see if you are eligible for a SAT fee waiver.
- www.act.org
 - Review this website to see if you are eligible for a ACT fee waiver.
- www.khanacademy.org
- Find a SAT or ACT prep book that fits your learning style and needs.
 - Check out eBay or Amazon for cheap prep books.

WHEN SHOULD YOU TAKE THE PSAT OR ACT PRACTICE TEST?

- 2020-2021 PSAT test dates.
 - October 1, 4, 17, 29, 2020
 - February 22-March 26, 2021; April 13-30, 2021
- Practice for the ACT using previous years tests on www.act.org.

WHEN SHOULD YOU TAKE THE SAT OR ACT?

- You should take the SAT or ACT in the spring of your junior year.

WHICH TEST SHOULD I TAKE; THE SAT, THE ACT, OR BOTH?

- When you begin researching potential schools you should review which test they accept.
 - Recently, colleges have weighed these tests equally in the admissions process.
- The SAT test structure involves reading, writing and language, math, and an optional essay.
- The ACT test structure involves English, math, reading, science reasoning, and an optional essay.
- Take a practice test on www.princetonreview.com/freepracticetest to see which test you perform better on.

TIPS FOR THE SAT AND ACT

- Study for approximately two months prior to your exam (i.e. if you are taking the SAT in May, then you should study from March-April).
- When practicing for the SAT or ACT do not flip back and forth after each question to the answer section; complete a section or a page before checking your answers.
- Eliminate incorrect answers to get to the correct answer.
- Complete easier questions first, then return to the more difficult questions or questions you marked.
- If you are unsure of an answer, then guess! There is no penalty for guessing.
- TRUST YOURSELF!

RESOURCES FOR THE SAT AND ACT

- www.collegeboard.org
 - Review this website to see if you are eligible for a SAT fee waiver.
- www.act.org
 - Review this website to see if you are eligible for a ACT fee waiver.
- www.khanacademy.org
- Find a SAT or ACT prep book that fits your learning style and needs.
 - Check out eBay or Amazon for cheap prep books.

It's your final year of high school and time to begin applying to colleges! Just by earning a college degree you will earn over \$1 million more than a someone with a high school diploma. So how do you prepare for the next big step? This page will answer those questions and provide resources for the college admissions process.

HOW TO APPLY

- Narrow down your college choices until you reach a comfortable amount; at least 5.
- Look up each school's deadline and send in your application early.
- Understand each schools' specific admissions requirements.
 - Check each school's website for their specific requirements.
 - Or use www.petersons.com to review school requirements and more.
- What you'll need for every application:
 - A copy of your high school transcript
 - A list of your extracurricular activities
 - Test scores
 - SAT or ACT
 - Parent/Legal Guardian Information
 - Educational background, occupational information, employer information, etc.
- Start your essay and personal statement early and have it proofread.
- Admissions evaluators only spend about 12 minutes on an application, so make a lasting impression.
- Your personality matters, so prove you're more than your test scores and grades.

EARLY DECISION VS. REGULAR DECISION

- If you are passionate about one particular school, then you should consider applying as an Early Decision candidate.
 - Early Decision candidates submit their application in November to their top college and receive an admission decision by December.
 - If you're accepted, then you agree to attend that college and accept their financial aid package.
- If you are interested in multiple schools, then you should consider applying as a Regular Decision candidate.
 - Regular Decision candidates submit their application in late December or January and receive a decision in the spring.
 - If you're accepted into multiple schools, then you are able to compare financial aid packages and to pick the college that fits you.

For more information visit: www.greatcollegeadvice.com

RESOURCES FOR ADMISSIONS

- www.commonapp.org
 - This website allows you to fill out one application that can be submitted to multiple colleges at one time.
- www.commonblackcollegeapp.com
 - Are you interested in attending an HBCU? Well this website allows you to apply to multiple HBCUs at one time with one, simple application.

HOW TO WRITE A BOMB COLLEGE APPLICATION AND ESSAY

- Analyze the prompt thoroughly and organize your writing.
 - Read the prompt several times before you begin to draft your outline.
 - See how long each paragraph needs to be to fit within the word count limit.
 - Create a schedule when to write your essay.
 - Start your essays and applications early!
- Use your essay as an introduction to admissions officers.
 - Don't simply state in your essay that you're passionate about something, show them through strong examples.
- Be yourself and tell YOUR story when writing essays.
 - Use college-level vocabulary in your essay, but avoid overdoing it.
 - Since many essays have a word count limit, find advanced words to replace a phrase.
 - Create complex and compound sentences and save simple sentences for when you need to make an impact.
- Have someone read and review your essays.
 - Ask no more than three people to help revise your essays; too many opinions may harm your essay more than help it.
 - Seek out teachers or individuals who have a background in the college admissions process.

TIPS ON HOW TO STAND OUT

- Visit the campus.
 - 70% of colleges say by visiting their school it plays a factor in their admissions decision.
- Colleges are looking for well-rounded students.
- Be cautious of your social media presence.
 - Delete posts or tweets that may impact your application if a college admissions officer were to see it.
 - Use social media as a platform to strengthen your brand and application.
- Convey who you are beyond the essay and application.
 - Add a little bit of humor into your essay.

FINDING THE BEST SCHOOL FOR YOU

- Recognize that the “best” colleges in the nation may not be right for you.
 - Find a college that fits your personal lifestyle and goals.
 - Factor in the cost of attendance and the amount of financial aid each school offers you.
 - Research what colleges offer the right courses and the facilities offered for your intended major (i.e. if you're a STEM major, then look to see if the college has updated labs).
 - Consider the ratio of students to teachers and class sizes.
 - Do you want to come home often, or experience a different part of the country? The location of the college is quite important in the decision making process.

To create a college roadmap visit: www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org

This page is all about the “Benjamins”! As the cost of tuition continues to rise, it is imperative that you as a student take advantage of financial aid opportunities such as scholarships and grants to alleviate the cost of attendance. As a senior, you can apply now for resources to help pay for college. On this page you will find tips and resources to begin your search!

WHAT IS FINANCIAL AID?

- Financial aid is money that helps pay for college..
- Financial aid can come from the U.S. Federal Government, your local state resources, the college you attend, or a nonprofit or private organization..
- Federal student aid includes:
 - **Grants:** financial aid that doesn't have to be repaid (aka free money!)
 - **Loans:** borrowed money for college; you must repay loans and their interest
 - **Work-study:** a work program through which you earn money to help pay for school

WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PAYING FOR COLLEGE WITH SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS VERSUS PAYING WITH LOANS?

- Scholarships and grants are basically free money.
 - This is money you will never have to pay back and can go towards anything (i.e. housing, tuition, books, etc.).
- Loans must be repayed with interest.
 - **Federal loans:** provided by the government with a fixed interest rate and income-driven repayment plans.
 - **Private loans:** provided by private organizations such as banks, credit unions, and state-based or affiliated organization.
 - Typically more expensive than federal loans.

AS JUNIORS AND SENIORS YOU CAN APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS NOW!

- Start your scholarship search early, look for scholarships everywhere, and apply for many.
- Gather letters of recommendation and list your accomplishments and awards.
- Have someone proofread your essays and review your entire application.
- Apply for scholarships you are qualified for first, then some you may not be qualified for.
- Use scholarship matching tools as a database to find scholarships fit for you, like:
 - www.akaef.org
 - www.uncf.org/scholarship
 - www.unigo.com
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.cappex.com
- Or use apps on your phone to find scholarships on the go, like:



www.scholly.com



www.raise.me



www.scholarships.com

For more information visit: www.studentaid.ed.gov/sa/

WHAT IS FAFSA (FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID)?

- A form that determines your eligibility for federal, state, and college-sponsored financial aid; including grants, educational loans, and work-study programs.
- The form must be submitted annually.
 - Opens annually on October 1 on www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - Early submissions = more \$\$\$
- Use the FAFSA website to see when your State FAFSA Deadline is and to see when FAFSA Day is in your state.
- This year you can complete your FAFSA using the new phone app, myStudentAid.

AVAILABLE ON THE APPLE APP STORE (IOS)

AVAILABLE ON GOOGLE PLAY (ANDROID)



WHAT ARE SOME COMMON MISTAKES AND TIPS WHEN COMPLETING THE FAFSA?

- Gather information early to assist when completing the form online, such as:
 - Your social security number and driver's license (if applicable)
 - W-2 Forms from the past two years
 - Yours and your parents' Federal Income Tax Return from the past two years
 - Current bank statements
- Making mistakes can delay your application and limit the amount of aid you're eligible for, such as:
 - Leaving fields blank
 - Using commas or decimals in numeric fields
 - Entering information like your name or address incorrectly
 - Forgetting to list colleges you've applied to attend

HOW CAN YOU PAY FOR COLLEGE IF YOU CANNOT EARN ENOUGH SCHOLARSHIPS AND GRANTS TO COVER THE TOTAL COST OF ATTENDANCE?

- If money is a issue consider attending a community college, then applying to a four-year college afterwards.
- Loans should be a last resort, but they can help when you cannot cover the full cost of attendance.
 - Remember to apply for federal loans first before you apply for private loans.
- Types of Federal Loans:
 - **Subsidized Loans:** does not earn interest while you are in school at least half-time.
 - **Unsubsidized Loans:** interest begins to accrue as soon as the loan is taken out.

Federal Student Loans	Direct subsidized loans or Direct unsubsidized loans	
Federal Loans for Parents	Direct PLUS loans	
Private Loans	www.collegeavestudentloans.com www.discoverstudentloans.com	www.salliemae.com www.ascentstudentloans.com

Alabama

Alabama A&M University
Alabama State University
Bishop State Community College
Concordia College
Gadsden State Community College
J.F. Drake State Technical College
Lawson State Community College
Miles College
Oakwood University
Selma University
Shelton State Community College
Stillman College
Talladega College
Trenholm State Community College
Tuskegee University

Arkansas

Arkansas Baptist University
Philander Smith College
Shorter College
University of Arkansas Pine Bluff

California

Charles Drew University of
Medicine and Science

Delaware

Delaware State University

Florida

Bethune-Cookman University
Edward Waters College
Florida A&M University
Florida Memorial University

Georgia

Albany State University
Clark Atlanta University
Fort Valley State University
Interdenominational Theological Center
Morehouse College
Morehouse School of Medicine
Morris Brown College
Paine College
Savannah State University
Spelman College

Kentucky

Kentucky State University
Simmons College

Louisiana

Dillard University
Grambling State University
Southern University and A&M College
Southern University- New Orleans
Southern University- Shreveport
Xavier University

Maryland

Bowie State University
Coppin State University
Morgan State University
University of Maryland Eastern Shore

Mississippi

Alcorn State University
Coahoma Community College
Hinds Community College- Utica
Jackson State University
Mississippi Valley State University
Rust College
Tougaloo University

Missouri

Harris-Stowe State University
Lincoln University

North Carolina

Barber-Scotia College
Bennett College for Women
Elizabeth City State University
Fayetteville State University
Johnson C. Smith University
Livingstone College
North Carolina A&T State University
North Carolina Central University
St. Augustine's University
Shaw University
Winston-Salem State University

Ohio

Central State University
Wilberforce University

Oklahoma

Langston University

Pennsylvania

Cheyney University of Pennsylvania
Lincoln University of Pennsylvania

South Carolina

Allen University
Benedict College
Claflin University
Clinton Junior College
Denmark Technical College
Morris College
South Carolina State University
Voorhees College

Tennessee

American Baptist University
Fisk University
Knoxville College
Lane College
LeMoyne-Owen College
Meharry Medical College
Tennessee State University

Texas

Huston-Tillotson University
Jarvis Christian College
Paul Quinn College
Prairie View A&M University
Southwestern Christian College
St. Philip's College
Texas College
Texas Southern University
Wiley College

Virginia

Hampton University
Norfolk State University
Saint Paul's College
Virginia State University
Virginia Union University
Virginia University of Lynchburg

Washington D.C.

Howard University
University of the District of Columbia

West Virginia

Bluefield State University
West Virginia State University

Virgin Islands

University of the Virgin Islands

August 2020

Nine of the top ten colleges that graduate most of the African-American students who go on to earn a Ph.D. are HBCUs.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- Review careers that interest you.
 - www.yourfreecareertest.com
- Review college majors that fit career interests.
- Prepare to take the PSAT or ACT practice test.
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.act.org

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Narrow list of potential schools to 5-10.
 - Review schools at: www.petersons.com
- Research scholarships and grants.
 - www.myscholly.com
- Register to take the SAT or ACT.
 - Check page 12 for more information
- Fill planner with application deadlines.
- Meet with school counselor about college choices.

Goal of the Month

September 2020

21 of the top 50 institutions for educating African-American graduates who go on to receive their doctorates science and engineering are HBCUs.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- Review schools that fit interests.
- Compile list of potential schools.
 - www.petersons.com
- Study for the PSAT or ACT practice test.
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.act.org
- Register to take the PSAT or ACT practice test.
 - October or November
- Attend college fairs and speak to reps that attend your high school.

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Begin to fill out college applications.
- Ask teachers and school counselor for recommendation letters.
- Begin to write college essays.
- Research scholarships and grants.
 - www.myscholly.com
- Register to take the SAT or ACT.
 - Check page 12 for more information

Goal of the Month

October 2020

HBCUs make up just 3% of colleges and universities in the U.S., yet they produce 27% of African-American students with a bachelor's degree in a STEM field.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- Compile list of potential schools.
 - www.petersons.com
- Study for the PSAT or ACT practice test.
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.act.org
- Take the PSAT or ACT practice test.
 - October or November
- Attend college fairs and speak to reps that attend your high school.

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Edit college essays and applications.
- Ask teachers and school counselor for recommendation letters.
- Begin FAFSA application.
 - Application opens Oct. 1st
 - Attend local FAFSA Day event
- Apply for at least 5 scholarships.
 - www.myscholly.com
- Send SAT or ACT scores and transcripts to schools.

Goal of the Month

November 2020

The Atlanta Journal Constitution reports that the top 10 HBCU endowments range from \$38 million to \$586 million, while the top ten PWI endowments range from \$6 billion to \$32 billion.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- Compile list of potential schools.
 - www.petersons.com
- Schedule college tours.
- Speak with school counselor about colleges.
- Take the ACT practice test.
- Attend college fairs and speak to reps that attend your high school.

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Submit Early Decision college application.
- Finalize and submit FAFSA application.
 - www.fafsa.ed.gov
- Apply for at least 5 scholarships.
 - www.myscholly.com
- Finish college essays and applications.
- Request financial aid forms and application.

Goal of the Month

December 2020

HBCUs educate 20% of all African-American college graduates.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- Schedule and attend college tours.
- Study for the SAT or ACT.
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.act.org
- Look for summer internships.
- Update your resume.
- Document awards and achievements.
- Narrow down potential colleges to 15-20.
- Search for financial aid sources.
 - www.studentaid.ed.gov

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Finalize college applications.
- Submit FAFSA.
- Apply for at least 5 scholarships.
 - www.myscholly.com
- Research deadlines for schools.
 - Housing application
 - School specific financial
 - aid application

Goal of the Month

January 2021

North Carolina A&T State University graduates the most black engineers in the U.S.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- Plan college visits.
- Research majors available at schools.
 - www.petersons.com
- Study for the SAT or ACT.
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.act.org
- Search for financial aid sources.
 - www.studentaid.ed.gov
- Look for summer internships.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities.

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Beware of Senior-itis! Keep your grades up!
- Apply for scholarships and grants.
 - www.myscholly.com
- Research student loan options.
- Attend financial workshops and events.
- Complete housing and school specific financial aid applications.

Goal of the Month

February 2021

Alabama is home to 12 HBCUs; the most in a single state

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- Narrow down potential colleges to 10-15.
- Study for the SAT or ACT.
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.act.org
- Apply for scholarships and grants.
 - www.myscholly.com
- Apply for a Trio Program.
 - www.ed.org
- Look for summer internships.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities.

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Apply for scholarships and grants.
 - www.myscholly.com
 - Look for local scholarships
- Research student loan options.
- Attend financial workshops and events.
- Complete housing and school specific financial aid applications.

Goal of the Month

March 2021

Spelman and Bennett Colleges produce over half of the nation's African-American women who go on to earn doctorates in all science fields; more than all the Ivy League's Seven Sisters combined.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- Study for the SAT or ACT.
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.act.org
- Register to take the SAT or ACT.
 - May or June
- Apply for scholarships and grants.
 - [ww.myscholly.com](http://www.myscholly.com)
- Apply for a Trio Program.
 - www.ed.org
- Look for summer internships.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities.

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Apply for scholarships and grants.
 - www.myscholly.com
 - Look for local scholarships
- Research student loan options.
- Apply for summer programs offered by the college.
- Schedule a campus visit.

Goal of the Month

April 2021

HBCUs contribute nearly \$15 billion annually to our national economy.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- Study for the SAT or ACT.
 - www.collegeboard.org
 - www.act.org
- Register to take the SAT or ACT.
 - May or June
- Research admissions requirements for each college.
- Apply for scholarships and grants.
 - www.myscholly.com
- Register for challenging senior year courses.

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Research scholarships and grants.
 - www.myscholly.com
 - Look for local scholarships
- Compare financial aid award letters.
- Make your final school decision!
- Mark calendar with important deadlines:
 - Registration
 - Orientation
 - Housing
 - Financial Aid

Goal of the Month

May 2021

Cheney University in Pennsylvanic was the very first HBCU founded in 1837.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

JUNIOR CHECKLIST

- Register to take the SAT or ACT.
 - May or June
- Schedule college visits for over the summer.
- Update resume.
- Document awards and achievements.
- Apply for scholarships and grants.
 - www.myscholly.com
- Search for financial aid sources.
 - www.studentaid.ed.gov
- Ask teachers for recommendation letters.

SENIOR CHECKLIST

- Celebrate College Signing Day.
 - May 1
 - Wear your new college gear
- Notify schools with your final decision.
 - May 1
 - Acceptance or denial
- Send final transcript to selected college.
- Apply for scholarships and grants.
 - www.myscholly.com
- Register for Accepted Student Weekend.

Goal of the Month

The summer leading up to your senior year is a vital time to get ahead in the college admissions process. Typically, applications are due in November for Early Decision and in January for Regular Decision. By starting now, you'll be able to relax and enjoy your senior year!

JUNE

- If needed, retake the SAT or ACT to improve your score.
 - Check page 13 for test dates.
- Schedule and visit college campuses.
- Work part-time, intern, or volunteer to add experience to your resume.
- Ask teachers for letters of recommendation with a 2-week notice.
- Begin writing college essays by researching previous essays from your selected colleges.
- Apply for scholarships and look for financial aid opportunities.

JULY

- If needed, retake the SAT or ACT to improve your score.
 - Check page 13 for test dates.
- Schedule and visit college campuses.
- Work part-time, intern, or volunteer to add experience to your resume.
- Ask teachers for letters of recommendation with a 2-week notice.
- Edit college essays and get it reviewed.
- Write a personal statement for applications and scholarships.
- Apply for scholarships and look for financial aid opportunities.

AUGUST

- Prepare for a productive senior year of high school!
- Ask summer employers or mentors for letters of recommendation with a 2-week notice.
- Finalize your personal statement and have it reviewed.
- Write down deadlines for FAFSA, admissions applications, and scholarships.
- Organize and research information about financial aid.
 - Check out page 16.
- Now relax, you got this!

Check out www.mappingyourfuture.org for additional resources and information to prepare for college.



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