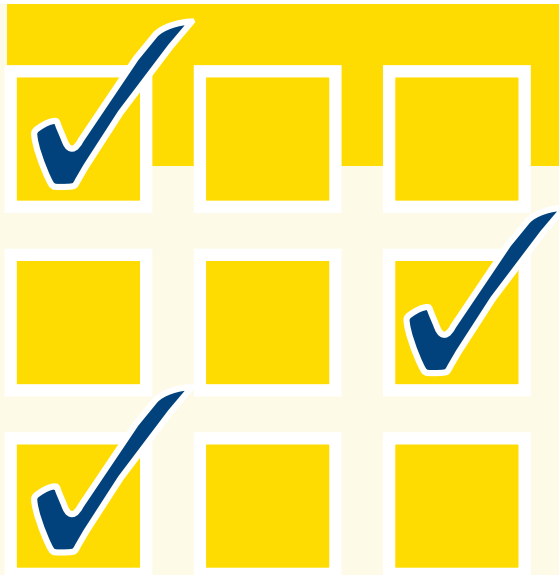




# college path checklist

Your college search may be a bit intimidating, especially at first. But with a little planning, it will be a rewarding journey. Use this checklist to help you stay on the right track.

## Junior year

- ☐ Take challenging, rigorous courses during your last two years of high school.
- ☐ Take the ACT and/or SAT college admission test(s); note that for test-optional schools you can choose to not send your scores.
- ☐ Meet with your school counselor/college consultant.
- ☐ Begin/continue your college search:
  - ☐ Make a list of important questions to ask. Augustana's "25 Questions to Ask a College" flier offers some ideas.
  - ☐ Go to college fairs.
  - ☐ Attend college visits at your high school.
  - ☐ Ask for recommendations from friends/family.
  - ☐ Explore college websites and informational pieces.
  - ☐ Familiarize yourself with resources such as college rankings and college search sites.
  - ☐ Reflect on your priorities for your college experience.
- ☐ Visit colleges:
  - ☐ Meet with a college admissions counselor.
  - ☐ Take a tour.
  - ☐ Meet with a professor in your academic area.
  - ☐ Sit in on a class.
  - ☐ Talk with coaches, music directors and/or other leaders of college programs that interest you.
  - ☐ Look for opportunities to connect with college personnel.
  - ☐ Ask those important questions on your list.

## Summer before your senior year

- ☐ Continue college visits.
- ☐ Ask friends about their first year of college.
- ☐ Organize and compare the communications you receive from colleges.
- ☐ Put together a résumé.

## Senior year

- ☐ Continue a rigorous college prep curriculum.
- ☐ Retake ACT or SAT if you wish. Also take achievement tests (AP, SAT II).
- ☐ Apply to colleges early (consult your school counselor):
  - ☐ Apply online using the Common Application or school-specific applications.
  - ☐ Keep a copy of each completed application.
- ☐ Follow your high school's procedure to send the following documents to your preferred schools:
  - ☐ Transcript
  - ☐ Test scores (ACT, SAT)
  - ☐ Original writing sample (if required)
  - ☐ Recommendations (as specified by the college)
- ☐ Schedule an interview with colleges on your list.
- ☐ Follow up to make sure all application materials have been received by the college.
- ☐ Continue visiting colleges, and if you like what you see, visit again.
- ☐ Complete required financial aid materials by the deadlines; FAFSA is usually available beginning Oct. 1 (Dec. in 2023).
- ☐ Investigate scholarships that may be available at your preferred colleges (academic and co-curricular).
- ☐ Fill out additional forms required for scholarships.
- ☐ Look for local/private scholarship programs.
- ☐ Select your college by May 1.
- ☐ Send necessary deposit(s) and find out about housing.
- ☐ Notify the schools you did not select.