

SENIOR'S Checklist for College Planning 2014-2015



Louisiana's Non-Profit
Resource for College Planning

SEPTEMBER 2014

- Meet with your Guidance Counselor.
 - Review high school transcripts.
 - Evaluate top three college choices.
- Register to take the ACT and/or SAT.
www.actstudent.org
www.collegeboard.org
- Complete online college admission application to top schools.
- Males: Register with the U.S. Selective Service.
www.sss.gov
- Register for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship at www.askLela.org by September 30, 2014 (Louisiana high school seniors are allowed to enter once for the scholarship drawing.)

FEBRUARY 2015

- Register for Advanced Placement exams.
- If you applied for early decision, responses should be coming to you. If not, follow up with your recruiter.
- Attend a Financial Aid program at your school or in your area.
- Participate in askLela's Financial Aid Awareness Month (FAAM) "Cash for College" scholarship at www.GoFAAM.com.
- Attend a College Goal Sunday event in your area on a Sunday in February to be announced.

OCTOBER 2014

- Attend a College and Career Fair at your high school or in your area.
- Meet all admissions, financial aid and scholarship application deadlines with your college or university.
- Submit artwork for askLela's Holiday Art Scholarship by November 1, 2014. More info at www.askLela.org.
- Devote time, energy, and thought to writing any required essays.
- Remember to complete your admission application to your top three schools.
- Visit www.March2Success.com for free ACT prep lessons.

MARCH 2015

- Register for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship, sign up at www.askLela.org by March 31, 2015.
- If you have completed the financial aid process, be on the look out for your Award Letter or electronic notification.
- Check with your school for FAFSA priority deadline dates. Many schools recommend to submit your FAFSA by March 1.
- Visit Lela's College Planning Center in Baton Rouge. Call to schedule an appointment for one-on-one assistance with your FAFSA.

NOVEMBER 2014

- If colleges request Letters of Recommendation from you, compile a list of teachers, guidance counselors, mentors, and other adults you can ask to submit a letter on your behalf. This may be needed for scholarship applications too.
- Search and apply for scholarships.
www.lela.org/freemoneysearch
- Finalize and have a teacher proof read any required essays.
- Register to take the ACT or SAT. Highest composite score will be accepted.
www.actstudent.org
www.collegeboard.org
- Attend a College Application Week event in your area.
tinyurl.com/lacollegeappweek

APRIL 2015

- Compare the offers you receive from each college.
- Decide which college to attend and notify the school of your decision.
- Review your financial aid award package with your parents; be sure you understand the terms and conditions that apply to each type of aid offered.
- If your award package includes student loans, only borrow what you NEED.
- Participate in askLela's Financial Literacy Awareness activities for a chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship!
www.lela.org/financialliteracy

DECEMBER 2014

- Visit www.studentaid.gov to compare colleges and research careers.
- Submit all completed admission and college academic scholarship applications. Check deadlines.
- If you haven't registered for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship, sign up at www.askLela.org by December 31, 2014.
- LIKE askLela on Facebook and write your name and high school on the wall for your chance to win a \$1,000 scholarship!
- Ask Lela for help!**

MAY 2015

- Notify the offices of Admissions and Financial Aid at the colleges you decided not to attend.
- Ask Lela for help!**
- Apply for a summer job.
- GRADUATION! Congratulations!
- Arrange housing and a meal plan with your new school, if necessary.

JANUARY 2015

- Collect family tax information for 2014.
- Prepare for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by registering for your Personal Identification Number (PIN) at www.pin.ed.gov.
- Complete the FAFSA online at www.fafsa.ed.gov for the upcoming 2015-16 school year.
- Contact your askLela representative for FREE one-on-one help with your FAFSA or financial aid questions.
 - North LA: Christie at smith@lela.org
 - South LA: Ann at carmichael@lela.org

JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2015

- Respond to any request from your college.
- Find out when payment of school charges (such as tuition, fees, and room and board) are due.
- Make a plan for saving a portion of your summer earnings.
- Attend Freshman Orientation at your new college.
- If you haven't registered for askLela's \$1,000 scholarship, sign up at www.askLela.org by June 30, 2015.

Lela's College Planning Center is now open in Baton Rouge!
For help, call our FAFSA Hotline or schedule an appointment.
800-228-4755 • info@lela.org • www.askLela.org

AUGUST 2014

- Work with your Guidance Counselor to confirm your class schedule in accordance to your post high school plans.
- Aim to enroll in Advanced Placement (AP) classes.
- Attend college fairs and college preparation presentations.
- Begin studying vocabulary words for the ACT or SAT. Check out the mobile App Store to get daily vocabulary words.

DECEMBER 2014

- Work with your Guidance Counselor to learn about scholarship opportunities.
- Seek part-time employment during holiday break.

APRIL 2015

- Consider volunteering to represent your school at a summer leadership conference (Boys/Girls State, Trailblazers, LYS, etc.).
- Evaluate what clubs or organizations you are a member of and consider running for a leadership position your senior year.
- If you are interested in the military for your career path, begin planning to take the ASVAP Test and meet with a military representative.

SEPTEMBER 2014

- Register for the PSAT. Your Guidance Counselor can assist you in registering for the October test.

The PSAT is also used by National Merit Scholarship Corporation as an initial screening of entrants in its annual competitions.
- Make a list of three to five colleges that interest you and why.

JANUARY 2015

- Consider putting together a portfolio that highlights your special skills, talents, community service, sports, hobbies, awards, and school activities.
- Think about financial aid. Talk with your parents about options in how to pay for college. Next year at this time you will be filing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).

MAY 2015

- Apply for a summer job, apprenticeship or internship related to your career interest.
- Job shadow in a profession that interests you.
- Open a savings account and/or a checking account.
- Team up with a study buddy in your preparations for your senior year.
- Get an estimate of your financial aid eligibility at FAFSA4caster.ed.gov.

OCTOBER 2014

- Register for the PSAT Test being offered on October 15 and October 18.
- Begin researching and comparing the colleges you like at www.studentaid.gov.
- Determine how you will select the right college for you (Cost, Academics, Scholarships, Environment or Location.)
- Get involved in community activities related to your career interests.

FEBRUARY 2015

- Register for the April ACT Test at www.actstudent.org.
- Visit www.March2Success.com for free ACT prep lessons.
- Start or update an academic and leadership resume.
- Continue to be on the lookout for any colleges that may have slipped under your radar.

JUNE/JULY 2015

- Include visits to colleges during your summer vacation.
- Save a portion of your earnings for college expenses.
- Schedule a few hours each week preparing for the ACT/SAT Test.
- Enroll in an ACT/SAT preparation workshop or visit your local library for helpful resources.
- Read subject books to help you prepare for challenging senior courses (trig, statistics, calculus, etc.).

NOVEMBER 2014

- Consider enrolling in Louisiana's Early Start program at www.osfa.la.gov.
- Participate in the George Rodrigue Art Scholarship for juniors. Check out www.georgerodriguefoundation.org.
- Ask Lela for help!**

MARCH 2015

- Visit your top colleges during a Preview Day or schedule a private visit through the Admissions/Recruiting Office.
- Volunteer for activities and clubs related to your career interests.
- Ask Lela for help!**



www.lela.org/peteandnate