



12TH GRADE COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

LAUNCH YOUR FUTURE

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER

- Meet with your school counselor to confirm you are on track to meet [Graduation Requirements](#).
- [Explore Careers](#) related to your interests and compare education, training, salary, and job outlook information.
- [Visit Potential Campuses](#), attend [College Fairs](#), and connect with [Admissions Representatives](#) to compare your options.
- Review your post-secondary plans and finalize a list of [Potential Universities, Technical Colleges, Apprenticeship Programs, Military Options](#), or employment pathways.
- Explore [Math Pathways Advising](#) to understand which math courses align with your intended major and future career goals.
- [Take the ACT](#) or review your ACT scores. Consider retaking the ACT to improve your score for admissions, scholarship opportunities, or course placement. Use free [ACT Preparation Resources](#), including the self-paced [Methodize ACT Prep](#) available to all SD students in grades 9-12 on SDMyLife.com.
- Use the [Dakota Dreams Events Calendar](#) to find campus visits events, career exploration opportunities, leadership programs, and enrichment opportunities.

South Dakota Scholarship & Recognition Checkpoint

- Review [South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship](#) requirements and confirm whether you are on track to earn it and/or the [Advanced Honors Endorsement](#).
- Explore [Build Dakota Scholarship](#) opportunities if you are considering a technical college pathway.
- Review [Scholarship Opportunities](#) offered by the colleges, universities, or technical colleges on your list.
- Search the [Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board](#). Use a [Scholarship Tracking Spreadsheet](#) to organize deadlines and application requirements.
- Request letters of recommendation early.

OCTOBER

- [Create Your StudentAid.gov Account \(FSA ID\)](#) so you can complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).
- Ensure contributors (such as parents) create their [StudentAid.gov](#) accounts.
- [Complete the FAFSA](#) as soon as possible after it opens October 1st.

Helpful Resources

- [Mapping Your Future](#) – Free FAFSA support at feedback@mappingyourfuture.org or 1-800-374-4072
- [Paying for College Video Series](#)
- [Financial Aid Planning Resources](#)
- Apply during [SD's Free College Application Period](#) or take advantage of [Fast Track Admission](#) if eligible.
- Continue monitoring scholarship deadlines and application requirements.

12TH GRADE COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST – CONTINUED

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER

- Continue [Applying for Scholarships](#).
- Meet college-specific [Scholarship Priority Deadlines](#).
- Submit [College Applications](#) if you have not already done so.
- Explore [Degree Pathways](#) to identify dual enrollment courses that align with your intended major or career goals.
- Complete your [High School Dual Enrollment](#) application for Spring term of your senior year if you wish to participate.

Spring Dual Enrollment Registration Opens November 1

JANUARY-MARCH

- Continue [Applying for Scholarships](#).
- Connect with the [Admissions Offices](#), [Financial Aid Offices](#) and/or the academic program departments at your potential college(s) to ensure you are aware of all your scholarship opportunities.
- Regularly check your email and student portals for admissions, scholarship, and financial aid updates.
- Review [Financial Aid Communications](#) from colleges.
- [Compare Scholarship and Financial Aid](#) opportunities.

APRIL-MAY

- Review [Financial Aid Offers](#) carefully, including grants, scholarships, loans, work-study opportunities, and out-of-pocket costs.
- Select your university, technical college, apprenticeship, military, or employment pathway.
- Accept scholarship offers and complete any required paperwork or verification forms.
- Submit enrollment deposits and required paperwork.
- Register for orientation and complete any required placement or advising steps.
- Finalize housing plans and meet residence hall deadlines, if applicable.
- Complete any required placement testing before orientation or course registration.
- Request your high school counselor to send your final transcript to the institution you plan to attend after graduation.
- Review placement, advising, and registration information provided by your future institution.

BEFORE GRADUATION

- Complete all [High School Graduation Requirements](#).
- Confirm that all college, scholarship, and financial aid requirements have been completed.
- Thank the teachers, counselors, family members, and mentors who supported you.
- Consider a summer job to help prepare for future education or training expenses and prepare a [Budget](#) to manage your money while in college.
- Celebrate your accomplishments and prepare for your next chapter.