



12th Grade

College & Career
Planning

Checklist: Senior Year

- Continue rigorous college preparation coursework
- Compile a senior resume
- Actively use Xello for college and career exploration
- Retake ACT or SAT if necessary
- Apply to colleges early. Early applications = Early Decisions:
 - See “College Application Checklist” below
- Follow up to check all materials arrive at the colleges
- Visit or revisit colleges
- Investigate scholarships that may be available at your colleges
- Fill out additional forms required for local scholarships
- Fill out required financial aid materials after October 1st
- Select your college by May 1st
- Send necessary deposits and secure housing
- Check with doctor regarding any recommended vaccines prior to living on campus
- Notify schools you did not select

College Application Checklist

- Apply online
 - Complete all aspects of application, including necessary essays
- Order official transcripts online at www.parchment.com
 - Create Account
 - Add the school you attend: Watertown High School
 - Add your enrollment information & provide consent
 - Order - Add destination (including Common App and NCAA Eligibility Center)
 - Payment or add another destination
 - Track order
 - Repeat process to send mid year transcript (if required) and/or final transcript to college
- Send ACT scores from www.act.org
- Mail any additional items requested such as letter of recommendation, resumes, scholarship information, etc
 - If a recommendation is needed, allow at least two weeks for writer to complete. Provide the writer with a “Letter of Recommendation Information” form or “Brag Sheet”, available in Student Services

Personal Statement / Essay(s)

- Answer the question(s)/make sure to follow the writing prompt
- Make it engaging to the reader
- Keep your essay concise and follow the word limit
- Begin with an engaging attention getter (make it so they want to continue reading your essay)
- When applying to multiple colleges, if you use the same essay make sure to adapt the essay to the specific college before using it again
- Tell them something interesting/unique about you that they can't find anywhere else on your application. Do not just repeat your application information, expand!
- Describe an obstacle that you were able to overcome and how you were able to do so
- Proofread
- Keep an electronic copy

ACT National Test Dates

ACT (No writing) - \$52

ACT (Plus Writing) - \$68.00

<u>Test Date</u>	<u>Regular Deadline</u>	<u>Late Fee Required</u>
October 26, 2019	September 20, 2019	October 4, 2019
December 14, 2019	November 8, 2019	November 22, 2019
February 8, 2020	January 10, 2020	January 17, 2020
April 4, 2020	February 28, 2020	March 13, 2020
June 13, 2020	May 8, 2020	May 22, 2020
July 18, 2020	June 19, 2020	June 26, 2020

To register for the ACT visit: www.actstudent.org

ACT Test Preparation

- The best preparation – a solid high school curriculum in English, Math, Reading and Science.
- Become familiar with the test content and format.
- Know appropriate test-taking strategies.
- See your counselor for test preparation materials.
- Take ACT's free practice test www.actstudent.org/sampletest.
- Make sure you are well rested and receive a healthy breakfast.
- Remember that you are able to retake the ACT as many times as you choose.

**Remember, test scores are only ONE factor used for college admissions and scholarship decisions.*

College Comparison Worksheet

COLLEGE NAME			
ENVIRONMENT Distance from home Physical size of campus Enrollment Type of school (2 yr, 4 yr) School setting (urban, rural) Location and size of nearest city Co-ed, male, female			
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS Deadline Tests required Average test scores, GPA, rank Special requirements Notification			
ACADEMICS Your major offered Special requirements Accreditation Student-faculty ratio Typical class size			
COLLEGE EXPENSES Tuition, room & board Estimated total budget Application fee, deposits Other			
FINANCIAL AID Deadline Required forms % receiving aid Scholarships			
HOUSING Residence hall requirement Availability Types and sizes Food plan			
FACILITIES Academic (classrooms, labs) Recreational Other (laundry)			
ACTIVITIES Clubs, organizations Greek life Athletics, intramurals Other			
CAMPUS VISITS When Special opportunities			

Financial Aid Information

- Complete the FAFSA- Application opens October 1st
 - www.fafsa.gov
 - Free assistance completing the FAFSA: www.CollegeGoalWI.org
 - Free assistance completing the FAFSA @ WHS: Listen for announcements throughout the year!
- **Loans:**
 - Subsidized vs. Unsubsidized:
 - The Federal government pays the interest on subsidized loans during periods of authorized deferment, such as the in-school and economic hardship deferments, while the interest remains the responsibility of the borrower on an unsubsidized loan.
- **Grants:** Money you do not pay back. Typically needs based.
- **Work Study:** Money you can earn while working on campus.
- **Scholarships:** Money you do not pay back. Could be from any of the following:
 - National
 - Local
 - Websites
 - Scholarship Services
 - College/University
 - Private Foundation

Ways to Reduce Tuition Costs

- Inquire about state and regional tuition costs if planning to apply out of state
- Enroll in community college classes
- Maximize the number of college credits you can take each semester
- Try not to switch majors
- Maximize scholarship opportunities
- Check sibling discounts
- Live at home
- Check for accelerated degree programs
- Ask about fixed rate tuition plans
- Maximize your high school experience

Madison College- Scholars of Promise

- Qualifications:
 - Have a minimum of a 2.25 GPA in high school
 - Submit ACT or Accuplacer test scores by April 1st of your senior year
 - Apply to a Madison College Degree Program by April 1st of your senior year
 - Complete the FAFSA by April 1st of your senior year
 - Must be eligible for federal and state financial aid, and your expected family contribution must be \$3,000 or less
- If you can check off all these boxes, Madison College will pay your remaining balance of tuition and fees after federal and state aid have been issued
- Complete and return the Scholars of Promise Online Interest Form before the end of your junior year: <https://madisoncollege.edu/scholars-of-promise-interest>

Badger Promise- UW Madison

- Who is eligible?
 - UW-Madison has existing transfer agreements with partner institutions that guarantee admission to students meeting the academic requirements. Badger Promise builds on that, providing free tuition and segregated fees to qualifying Wisconsin residents whose parents did not graduate from a four-year college.
- What type of aid will you receive?
 - Up to two (2) semesters of in-state tuition and segregated fees. Those who have shown Federal Pell Grant eligibility at UW-Madison will receive up to four (4) semesters of in-state tuition and segregated fees.
 - For more information: <https://financialaid.wisc.edu/types-of-aid/badger-promise/>

Bucky's Tuition Promise

- Who is eligible?
 - Wisconsin Residents
 - Incoming Freshman or Transfer Student
 - Household Adjusted Gross Income of \$56,000 or less
 - Must submit FAFSA by December 1st
- What type of aid will you receive?
 - Free tuition and segregated fees
 - 4 years for freshmen, 2 years for transfer students

For more information go to: <http://financialaid.wisc.edu/btp>

Additional Resources

ACADEMIC & CAREER PLANNING

Xello

<https://xello.world/en/>

Military

<http://todaysmilitary.com/>

WHS Academic & Career Planning

<https://goo.gl/MDpSV9>

FINANCIAL AID

FREE Application for Federal Student Aid

www.fafsa.ed.gov

FREE Local Assistance

www.collegegoalsunday.usa.org

Financial Aid

www.finaid.org

Scholarships

www.careersandcolleges.com

National Scholarships

www.fastweb.com

Local Scholarships (Deb Fischer)

fischerd@watertown.k12.wi.us

COLLEGE SEARCH

WI Educational Fairs

www.wefs.org

UW Help

www.uwhelp.wisconsin.edu

University of WI Schools

<https://apply.wisconsin.edu/>

WI Private Colleges/Universities

www.waicu.org

MN Private Colleges/Universities

www.mnprivatecolleges.org

WI Technical Schools

www.witechcolleges.org

TEST INFORMATION

ACT

www.actstudent.org

SAT

www.sat.collegeboard.com

WHS Student Services Phone #

(920) 262-7550

<https://www.watertown.k12.wi.us/schools/high/whsstudent-services.cfm>

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