

School Counseling, Benson High School, Omaha Public Schools
2017-18 Senior Checklist for Post-Secondary Planning – FALL 2017

Throughout Fall Semester

- _____ Study at home, do your homework, be organized, manage your time, use your planner, get good grades.
- _____ **Set up a college planning organization system** such as a notebook or dedicated drawer at home, and put all of your college information and forms into it.
- _____ **Participate in extracurricular activities & service learning opportunities.** Update your activities resume often.
- _____ **Research colleges and scholarships.** Naviance will be one of your biggest resources this year!
- **Naviance Family Connection** Go to benson.ops.org → Students → Naviance
 Username: Student's 6-digit student ID
 Password: Student's 8-digit birthdate (e.g. May 14, 1999 is 05141999)
 - **College Board (college search)** – www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org (select college search)
 - **EducationQuest (scholarship search)** - <https://www.educationquest.org> (select ScholarshipQuest)
- _____ **Explore college options and narrow your selection**
- Attend the Fall UNO College Fair, Sun. **Oct. 1, 2017**, 1-4 p.m. Sapp Field House *
 - Visit with college admissions representatives at Benson. Watch bulletin for dates, sign up on Naviance. *
 - Go on campus tours. Sign up at the college website or look for info in bulletin.
- _____ **Complete 2-4 college applications by early December*** OR...
Complete military, trade school, apprenticeship, job applications. Keep track of deadlines for your college choices. Use the college website to submit applications. On Naviance, request transcripts be sent to the colleges you've applied to. Consider applying to at least one local college or university.
- _____ **Create an Activities Resume*** using the activities resume builder on www.EducationQuest.com. Update it on a regular basis.
- _____ **Begin writing essay(s) for college or scholarship applications.** Many scholarships require an essay. Give yourself plenty of time to have them proofed and remember to revise, revise, revise.
- _____ **Research and apply for scholarships.***
Write deadlines on a calendar. Good scholarship resources are:
- Naviance Scholarship List/Search
 - OPS *Scholarship Handbook*
 - ScholarshipQuest at EducationQuest.org
 - The website of the college you plan to attend
 - Benson School Counseling Office (Scholarship "wall" and binder)
 - Benson High School and Alumni Scholarship applications will be available in February

September → October

- _____ Your counselor will call you down for an **individual meeting in September** to make sure you're on track for graduation, have the courses needed to meet college admission requirements, and to work on post-secondary planning.*

_____ **Attend an EducationQuest Financial Aid Program*** at local Omaha area high schools throughout the fall. See Upcoming Events at EducationQuest.org for dates and locations.

Thursday, Sept. 14 - 6:00 – Omaha North

Tuesday, Sept. 26 - 6:00 – Marian

Wednesday, Sept. 27 - 6:00 – Duchesne

Tuesday, Oct. 3 - 5:30 Omaha South

Wednesday, Oct. 4 - 5:30 – Millard West

Monday, Oct. 16 - 6:00 – Omaha Burke

_____ **Explore college options** - Attend the UNO College Fair, Sun. **Oct. 1**, 1-4 p.m. Sapp Field House

_____ **Come to one of the College planning sessions** at Benson HS with your parent(s) or guardian(s) during Parent-Teacher Conferences. More information about times/location to come.

October → December

_____ **Take (or retake) your college entrance exam***

- Most **4-year colleges/universities** require the **ACT** or **SAT** for admission. Colleges typically use your highest composite score for admission and scholarship decisions. For registration info, fee waivers** or to register, visit the counseling center. ** Students receiving free/reduced lunch may qualify for a registration fee waiver.

ACT Test Date	Register by:	Late Registration - extra fee
October 28, 2017	September 22	September 23 - October 6, 2017
December 9, 2017	November 3	November 4-17, 2017

- Most local **2-year community colleges** require students take the **Accuplacer**. Wait until January through March to take these. They will accept the ACT and SAT as well.
- Be sure to **PREP for your college entrance exam**. The scores on these exams can determine which English or Math class you take in college, or how much money a scholarship committee may award you. It is of **UTMOST IMPORTANCE** that you prepare for these tests like they are worth money! Information on test prep may be found in the Counseling office.

_____ **Prepare and complete the FAFSA*** (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which opens on **October 1, 2017**. Parents, FAFSA use your 2016 taxes for processing. Try to complete by mid-December!

- Create a FSA-ID (student and parent) at fafsa.ed.gov.
- Use 2017-18 FAFSA Checklist found at www.educationquest.org
- Schedule an appointment via Naviance with Wynter Davis, our EducationQuest representative if you need help filling out your FAFSA. She is at Benson every Wednesday.
- After you have submitted your FAFSA, you should expect your Student Aid Report (SAR) within a week to 10 days.

_____ **Use Naviance to request letters of recommendation** from your teachers if needed for college or scholarship applications. Ask in person, and at least three weeks in advance. Let teachers know if you will be using this letter for multiple applications.

* Indicates an OPS High School College and Career Readiness Milestone.

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