

## CHECKLIST FOR COLLEGE-BOUND SENIORS

	<p>Start a file or folder. Save EVERYTHING pertaining to college admissions. All colleges are different. Compare entrance requirements, cost, size, unique programs, facilities, and your intended field of study, athletics, and extracurricular activities.</p>
	<p>Transcript requests can be made through Parchment. Go to <a href="http://www.parchment.com">www.parchment.com</a> and follow the directions below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Click on the Sign Up tab to create an account</li> <li>• Enter your name, email, password, date of birth, gender, current grade level, and year entering college</li> <li>• Then make sure to choose <b>ARMADA HIGH SCHOOL</b> as your school</li> <li>• When you are ready to send a transcript, click on the college or university you want it sent to</li> </ul>
	<p>Register with SAT if you wish to retake this college entrance test at <a href="https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat">https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat</a>. This is at the student's own cost. You may need to contact SAT directly to have your test scores sent to your college choices. <b>We also highly recommend that you also take the ACT.</b> You can register at <a href="http://www.act.org/">http://www.act.org/</a>.</p>
	<p>Update and complete your Educational Development Plan using Career Cruising. Make sure your careers and college choices are accurate and up-to-date! <a href="http://www.careercruising.org">www.careercruising.org</a></p>
	<p>Meet with your <u>three most preferred college admission advisors</u>. Check the posters outside the counseling office and the counseling website to see which colleges are visiting when! Don't miss out on an opportunity for on-site admissions!</p>
	<p>Research colleges by going online to their websites. Do the schools have your desired program of study? What will tuition cost? Will you live on campus or stay at home? These are important factors to consider!</p>
	<p>Discuss colleges with parents, counselors, teachers, college alumni, and friends currently enrolled. See if your college is offering a Financial Aid Night to get all of your questions answered!</p>
	<p>Maintain and improve academic grades. Colleges look unfavorably on failing/poor grades, especially in your senior year. Admission can be revoked. <b>Senior grades DO matter!</b></p>
	<p>Start applying to colleges. Seniors should be advised to check with your college choice for deadlines for early admission decision. Apply to at least three to five colleges so you have a backup plan in place. Students interested in attending an out-of-state college are advised to go to the school website for applications/information.</p>
	<p>Talk with your junior teachers about letters of recommendation. They know you the best! Give them <u>3-4 weeks' notice AT LEAST!</u> Provide them with an accurate list of your accomplishments and activities. Don't forget to send a thank you note!</p>
	<p>Continue your involvement in volunteer and extracurricular activities.</p>
	<p>Arrange final visits to college campuses. The best way to get a feel for the campus is to actually go and visit! Register online at least two weeks in advance to make arrangements for a campus visit. Ask if you can sit in on a class!</p>
	<p>Begin applying for scholarships! Have your parents check employers, churches, and organizations to which they belong.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check out the scholarship folder on the counseling website - <a href="http://ahscounseling.weebly.com/scholarships.html">http://ahscounseling.weebly.com/scholarships.html</a></li> <li>• Check the scholarship board outside the counseling office</li> <li>• Check with the financial aid office at college(s) you are planning to attend</li> <li>• Fill out the Armada Common Scholarship Application on the counseling website - you will need the following information:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ GPA</li> <li>○ Income Tax Information -- siblings claimed as dependents on your parent's income tax</li> <li>○ End of Season Awards or any type of awards you have earned</li> <li>○ Community Service Information</li> <li>○ Cost of College or University attending</li> <li>○ Financial Assistance -- any loans, grants, or awards you have won towards college</li> <li>○ "Armada Moment" Essay</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>File a FAFSA application online at <a href="http://www.fafsa.gov">www.fafsa.gov</a> by March 1<sup>st</sup>. You can file as early as October 1<sup>st</sup>!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create a FSA ID for both parent and student before filing at <a href="https://fsaid.ed.gov">https://fsaid.ed.gov</a></li> <li>• Check out the financial aid estimator at <a href="http://www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov">www.fafsa4caster.ed.gov</a></li> </ul>
	<p>Fill out the 'Scholarships Received' form for any merit-based money you are awarded on the counseling website. We want to acknowledge you at Awards Night in May!</p>
	<p>Be sure to request your final transcript be sent to the college you will be attending. You can do so through Parchment. Make sure you request it be sent AFTER your last trimester grades are added!</p>
	<p>Notify the counseling secretary of your final college choice. Let the other colleges know you will not be attending so another student can be accommodated from their waitlist.</p>
	<p>Ask your counselor any question that comes up along the way! We are here to help!</p>