

College-bound?

A checklist to prepare students and parents



The last two years of high school are particularly important – **for students and their parents** – when preparing for college. This checklist, developed by Franklin Templeton, will help you stay on track.

Tips for junior year

FOR STUDENTS

- ✔ Prepare for standardized tests by taking a test prep course or hiring a tutor.
- ✔ Start compiling a target list of schools.
- ✔ Meet with teachers, coaches and mentors to request letters of recommendation.



FOR PARENTS

- ✔ Determine the Student Aid Index (SAI) for federal financial aid, which determines aid awards. Visit www.studentaid.gov for an estimate.
- ✔ Review 529 account ownership and investments with a trusted advisor to determine if any changes are necessary.
- ✔ Research whether targeted colleges require the College Scholarship Service (CSS) Profile application, which may require additional information.

Tips for senior year

FOR STUDENTS

- ✔ Complete applications and be aware of early decision/early action and regular decision dates.
- ✔ Research and apply for any applicable scholarships.
- ✔ Establish a presence on LinkedIn and review all social media accounts to ensure content won't jeopardize an admissions decision.

FOR PARENTS

- ✔ Identify which savings accounts to use first for expenses, based on investment, tax or financial aid considerations.
- ✔ Complete the FAFSA form as soon as possible (available October 1) since an earlier submission may improve the chances of receiving aid.
- ✔ Ask your student to complete a health care proxy upon turning 18 and before going to college.

From **savings vehicles** to **tax-efficiency strategies**, an advisor can guide you through the financial considerations of college. Include them in your planning conversations early on and send your student off to college with confidence.

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