

Senior College Planning Checklist

Getting Started

- Meet with your **GUIDANCE COUNSELOR** early in the fall to discuss your plans for college and learn about financial aid options.
- **STAY ORGANIZED.** American Education Services has interactive career, college planning, and financing tools on their website at www.EducationPlanner.org.
- **ASK QUESTIONS.** Talk to parents, teachers, and friends who have attended college, as well as professionals in fields that interest you.
- Participate in **SCHOOL-** and **COMMUNITY-BASED ACTIVITIES** and earn one elective credit toward graduation. Call 800-815-5465 or visit www.dhss.delaware.gov/dhss/dssc/sov/dvc.html to learn more. To search for volunteer opportunities in Delaware, go to www.volunteerdelaware.org.
- Visit www.doe.k12.de.us/dhec to learn about **STATE AID**. Click on the "Other Websites" link to find resources that will help you **PLAN** and **PAY** for **COLLEGE**.
- Make a list of what you want to study and accomplish in college. Think about your **CAREER** and **PERSONAL GOALS**.

Tests

- Ask your guidance counselor for registration, fee, and test date information for the **SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests**, **The ACT**, **AP Exams**, **CLEP**, and/or **TOEFL**. Discuss which tests you should take and ways to prepare.

Choosing

- Attend **COLLEGE FAIRS** and talk to representatives from a variety of schools. Visit the National Association for College Admission Counseling's website at www.nacacnet.org for tips on attending a fair.
- Visit college websites to explore your options. Most colleges offer their **CATALOGS** online.
- **VISIT CAMPUSES** and talk to faculty and students. The "Campus Visits" section at www.EducationPlanner.org will help you prepare.
- Use the worksheet on the back to **COMPARE COLLEGES**. ➡

Applying

- Request **ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS** from colleges.
- Write required **ESSAYS** and proofread carefully.
- Update your **RESUME**.
- Ask teachers, guidance counselors, employers, coaches, community service directors, and others who know you well for **LETTERS OF RECOMMENDATION**.
- Send **TRANSCRIPTS** to colleges to which you apply.
- Keep track of all **DEADLINES** and save **COPIES** of all forms.

Paying

- Attend a **FINANCIAL AID NIGHT** this winter to learn about applying for financial aid. A schedule of financial aid nights will be posted at www.doe.k12.de.us/dhec in November.
- **APPLY** for federal aid (www.fafsa.ed.gov), state aid (www.doe.k12.de.us/dhec), institutional aid, and scholarships. Keep track of all deadlines and make copies of all forms.
- Continue **SAVING** for college. Apply for **SUMMER JOBS**.

SEED and ACM

- If you are considering full-time enrollment in an associate degree program at Delaware Technical & Community College or the University of Delaware's Associate in Arts program, you may be eligible for the **DELAWARE SEED SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**. Visit www.dtcc.edu/seed or www.udel.edu/associateinarts/SEED.
- If your major is not offered at a public college in Delaware, visit www.doe.k12.de.us/dhec to learn about tuition savings in 15 southern states through the **ACADEMIC COMMON MARKET**.

College Comparison Worksheet

LOCATION

distance from home
proximity to educational/cultural resources

College 1

College 2

ENVIRONMENT

size of school
rural, small town, suburban, urban setting
diversity of student body

TYPE OF SCHOOL

public or private
community college
proprietary school
religious affiliation
Historically Black College or University (HBCU)
Hispanic-Serving Institution (HSI)
coed, all male, or all female

ADMISSIONS

tests required
average test scores, GPA, rank in class
early decision or early action

QUALITY

retention rates
graduation rates

ACADEMIC PROGRAMS

majors offered
accreditation
student-faculty ratio
typical class size

EXPENSES

application fee & deposit
tuition & required fees
computer & lab fees
room & board
books & supplies
living expenses
transportation

FINANCIAL AID

availability of tuition payment plans
percentage of students receiving aid
availability of need-based aid
availability of merit-based aid

HOUSING

on-campus housing options
on-campus housing requirements
percentage of students living on campus
off-campus housing options

CAMPUS LIFE

extracurricular activities & facilities
athletic programs & facilities
clubs & organizations