

Senior College Planning Checklist

Email: dheo@doe.k12.de.us/dheo

Delaware Higher Education Office

Getting Started

- Meet with your **SCHOOL COUNSELOR** early in the fall to discuss your plans for college and learn about financial aid options.
- Access **CAREER CRUISING** by logging in to your Delaware Student Success Plan (SSP) at <https://www.careercruising.com/ssp>. You will find tools to assess your skills and interests, write your resume, explore careers, learn about financial aid, and search for scholarships. Contact your advisor or school counselor if you do not have your user name and password.
- **ASK QUESTIONS.** Talk to parents, teachers, and friends who have attended college, as well as professionals in fields that interest you. Visit www.yesyoucande.com/index.php/home to help you find answers.
- Participate in **SCHOOL and COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES** and earn one elective credit toward graduation. To learn more, call 1-800-815-5465 or visit www.volunteerdelaware.org.
- Visit www.doe.k12.de.us/dheo and 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.**
- Visit www.mycollegecalendar.org to help you **ORGANIZE** your college search activities and learn about the admissions process.

Tests

- Ask your school counselor for registration, fee, and test date information for the **SAT** and **SAT Subject Tests, AP Exams, CLEP Exam** (www.collegeboard.org) and/or the **ACT** (www.act.org). 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 publish their **CATALOGS** online.
- **VISIT CAMPUSES** and talk to faculty and students. The "Visiting Campus" section at www.EducationPlanner.org will help you prepare.
- Use the worksheet on the back to **COMPARE COLLEGES.** ➡

Applying

- Start requesting **ADMISSIONS APPLICATIONS** from colleges early in the fall.
- Write required **ESSAYS** and proofread carefully.
- Ask teachers, school 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/dheo in late fall.
- **APPLY for FINANCIAL AID** from the federal government (www.fafsa.ed.gov), the State of Delaware (www.doe.k12.de.us/dheo), the colleges you apply to, and private scholarship donors. **KEEP TRACK** of all deadlines and make copies of all forms.
- Continue **SAVING** for college. Apply for **SUMMER JOBS.**

SEED

- 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.** Visit www.dtcc.edu/seed or www.udel.edu/associateinarts/SEED to learn more.

INSPIRE

- If you are considering full-time enrollment at Delaware State University, you may be eligible for the **INSPIRE SCHOLARSHIP.** To learn more, visit www.desu.edu/inspire.

ACM

- If your major is not offered at a public college in Delaware, visit www.doe.k12.de.us/dheo to learn about tuition savings in 14 southern states through the **ACADEMIC COMMON MARKET.**

College Comparison Worksheet

LOCATION

distance from home

proximity to educational & cultural resources

ENVIRONMENT

size of school

rural, small town, suburban, or 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, early action, or single-choice 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