



The Summer College Checklist

*If you have a challenging 12th-grade course load, time-consuming extracurriculars, & the SAT or ACT to take—all ON TOP of college applications—then **use this summer wisely!***

- ☐ **Identify Academic, Social & Personal Goals:** these will guide every choice you make through applications and college itself
- ☐ **Free Associate & Build Out Initial College List:** as many as 20+ schools that you can later slim down
- ☐ **Create a Personalized List of Essential College Questions:** use it to direct your research
- ☐ **Develop Your Brag Sheet & Info Packets for Recommenders:** your rec letters are a crucial part of establishing your credibility, so give your recommenders the ammunition they need!
- ☐ **Build Your Activities List & Student Resume:** clarify your skills & abilities, making sure you're ready for any opportunity
- ☐ **Start Demonstrating Interest:** keep a correspondence log to ensure that every college knows who you are before applying
- ☐ **Personal Statement & UC Insight Questions:** capture your unique essence in a strong draft that you can adapt to different prompts
- ☐ **Why Us? Template:** most colleges ask why the fit is right, so start with what you'll bring to the table
- ☐ **Balance the College List:** ideally 6 - 10 total applications, anchor, target & reach
- ☐ **Home Stretch:** week-by-week application task due dates for fall
- ☐ **Research affordability:** estimate Expected Family Contribution, run the Net Price Calculator for individual colleges, research merit aid & scholarships