**College Path Checklist**

**Junior year or earlier**

* Plan a [rigorous course of study for your last years of high school](http://collegequestions.org/collegeprep.html)
* Take the college admissions test(s) (ACT: Given at school, SAT visit www.collegeboard.org)
* [Meet with your high school counselor or your college advisor](http://collegequestions.org/meeting.html)

-See Mrs. Knisley and set up a time to meet at school OR

- email Mrs. Knisley at enjoli.knisley@somersetnv.org

* Begin your college search:
  + Go to college fairs
  + Meet with admissions counselors who visit your high school
  + Ask family and friends for their recommendations
  + Check out colleges’ websites
  + Research schools through their catalogs and publications (Email the admissions office to request these materials)
  + Look at lists of college rankings and use online college search sites
  + Reflect on your priorities for your college experience
* Prepare for your college visit:
* [Develop a list of important questions to ask](http://collegequestions.org/questions.html)
  + Make arrangements with your teachers and school attendance office about missing classes for college visits
  + Schedule your visits through the college admissions offices.  Ask about meeting with faculty, coaches, etc. if you are interested
* Start your [college visits](http://collegequestions.org/visit.html):
  + Meet with a college admissions counselor
  + Take a tour
  + Meet with a professor in your academic area
  + [Sit in on a class](http://collegequestions.org/sitin.html)
  + Talk with coaches, music directors and others who lead college programs in your areas of interest
  + Talk to students about their experiences
  + [Ask questions from your prepared list](http://collegequestions.org/questions.html)

**Summer before your senior year**

* Continue [college visits](http://collegequestions.org/visit.html). Take advantage of special summer visit programs
* Ask friends about their first year of college
* Organize and read the college information you’ve received
* Compile a résumé including extra-curricular activities, community service, work experience, awards and honors, etc.
* Feeling ambitious?  Get a head start on filling out your applications.

**Senior year**

* Continue [rigorous college-prep curriculum](http://collegequestions.org/collegeprep.html)
* Retake ACT or SAT if you wish
* Apply to colleges (start early!):

2

* Find application online or request a paper copy
* Fill out application. Make sure you proofread before submitting.  Keep a copy of all your completed applications for your records.
* Follow your high school’s procedure to send:
* Application and fee
* Official transcript through high school
* Test scores (ACT and/or SAT)
* Original writing sample (if required)
* Teacher or counselor recommendations (as specified by the college)
* Follow up to make sure all materials arrive at the college
* Continue college visits:
* Make repeat visits to schools you liked the first time
* 11Interview with the admissions office if recommended for admissions process
* 1Set up overnight visits at your top 2 or 3 choices
* Work through financial aid process:
* Fill out FAFSA form and other required financial assistance materials (available after January 1)
* Investigate scholarships at the colleges you are considering (academic, co-curricular, talent, heritage- or religion-affiliated, etc.)
* Fill out additional forms required for scholarships
* Look for local/private scholarship programs
* Select your college by May 1:
* Send necessary deposit(s)
* Investigate housing options
* Notify colleges not selected of your choice