

SOUTH DAKOTA

STATEWIDE FAMILY ENGAGEMENT CENTER



12TH GRADE STUDENT CHECKLIST

Summer

- Try to find internship opportunities.** If financially possible, this can positively impact college applications or future employment applications. Internships are also important for career exploration.
- Seek out volunteer opportunities.** Volunteer work can help learn new skills, gain experience, make new contacts, and show potential employers that you are a caring individual who also has drive and ambition.
- Plan college visits to colleges that you are seriously considering.**
- Begin filling out college applications.**
- Gather the information needed for the Free Application For Federal Student Aid (FAFSA).** Checkout the SFEC College and Career Resource Guide for the FAFSA checklist for students and parents.
- Create a calendar with a realistic timeline to stay on track to meet all college and career deadlines.**

Fall

- Make sure you meet with the school counselor.** This will ensure that you are on track to graduate.
- Take career assessments and career exploration.** A free online assessment is Mynextmove.org.
- Find out whether your interests match the lifestyle you want.** Use Reality Check, a free online assessment, to figure this out.
- Retake ACT, SAT, or ASVAB if necessary.**
- Meet with a Career Launch Career Advisor.** If you are still unsure about your future, the Career Launch program can provide additional career exploration, help you determine a pathway that fits your interests and skills, and other employment opportunities and resources to support your future.
- Complete college and/or career pathway applications.**

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Fall continued

- Participate in College Application Week.** Even if you are unsure about your future plans, it is an opportunity to apply to in-state colleges for FREE.
- Apply for scholarships even if you are unsure about future plans.**
- Complete the FAFSA with your family on or after October 1.** Check to see if there is a financial aid night if you need extra assistance. Even if you are unsure about your future plans, you will be informed early about the amount of financial aid available to you which could impact your decision to attend college.
- Plan college visits to your top college choices.**

Winter

- Discuss with your counselor and family about college acceptance letters you have received.** Use College Scoreboard to help narrow down college choices.
- Review the financial aid award from each school with your counselor and family.**

Spring

- Finalize your decision for college or career pathway.**
- Celebrate your graduation with family and friends!**

Sources: MyFuture.com; Educationquest.org; Collegeboard.org; MyNextMove.org; SDDL R Reality Check; collegescorecard.ed.gov

