

Welcome to



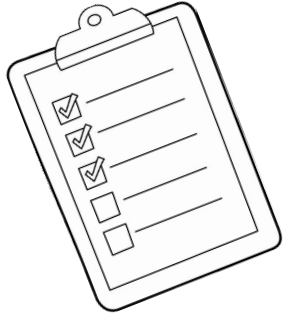
Senior Year

It is time to start preparing for the next step!

# Senior College Planning Checklist

## Fall

- ☐ Take standardized tests (if applicable)
  - ☐ ACT/SAT OR consider test-optional colleges
- ☐ Apply early!
  - ☐ UW System deadline for early action is November 1st (Decision by January 31st)



## Winter

- ☐ Decide where you are going to attend in the fall
- ☐ Pay Enrollment Deposit if required
- ☐ Complete Housing Application
- ☐ Register for and take placement tests, if needed
- ☐ Complete all your financial aid forms. Fill out the FASFA and your home state's financial aid form (if there is one). Some colleges require CSS profile or a college specific form. Most funds are first-come, first-served, so apply early. Don't forget about external scholarships

# Senior College Planning Checklist

## Spring

- ☐ Hear back and decide on your college
  - ☐ Get your regular-decision admissions and decide which colleges you'll attend.
- ☐ Request transcripts (UW Oshkosh for CAPP, UWGB for CCIHS), and AP scores to be transferred to your college, so that you obtain credit.
- ☐ Complete Local Scholarship Application
- ☐ Register and take placement tests, if needed
- ☐ Finalize financial aid and/or accept the financial package from the college

## Summer

- ☐ June
  - ☐ Request Final Transcript from parchment
- ☐ July
  - ☐ AP Scores become available. Follow up with College Board to ensure they have been sent to your school of choice.



# Choosing a College

When deciding on school, reflect on what you hope to gain from your college experience and do your research to learn all you can about prospective schools.

Use the following as a guide to help understand your preferences:

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Type of School | <input type="checkbox"/> Location      | <input type="checkbox"/> Size of School |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environment    | <input type="checkbox"/> Admission     | <input type="checkbox"/> Academics      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Expenses       | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Aid | <input type="checkbox"/> Scholarships   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing        | <input type="checkbox"/> Facilities    | <input type="checkbox"/> Activities     |

## **Campus Visit:**

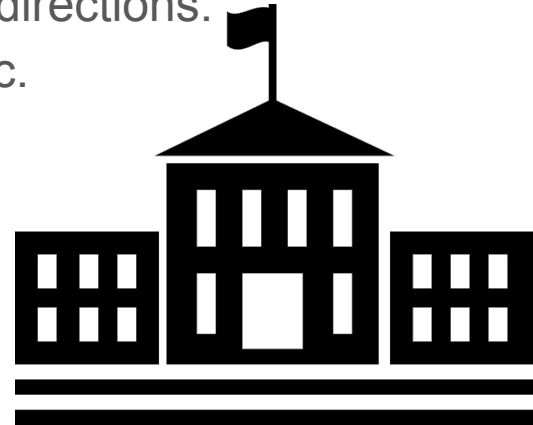
Hopefully you have been on several campus visits by now. If not, this is priority number one. The campus visit is your ultimate research task. It's important to get a true feel of the campus vibe to see if the college is a good fit for you. Be sure to make the most of it by asking questions and keeping track of what you learn. Don't forget to ask students about the local hangouts, best places to eat, and activities on campus. If possible, check them out while you are visiting.

# Upcoming College Fairs 2024

Wisconsin Education Fairs (WEF) provide easy access to information about post-secondary options on a timely basis for all Wisconsin citizens, regardless of geographic location.

Please refer to the website for registration and directions.  
The WEF is free and open to the public.

<http://www.wefs.org/fair-schedule/>



# UW System & Common Applications

UW Schools use the UW System Application

<http://apply.wisconsin.edu>

Since most institutions have application priority dates or deadlines after which applications may no longer be considered, it is generally to your advantage to apply as early as possible.

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Common Application

<http://www.commonapp.org>

Private Schools in Wisconsin who use the Common Application

[Beloit College](#) ~ [Carroll University](#) ~ [Lawrence University](#) ~ [Marquette University](#) ~  
[Northland College](#) ~ [Ripon College](#) ~ [St. Norbert College](#)

# Direct Admit UW Wisconsin System

Home Page

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/direct-admissions/>

Next Steps Checklist

<https://www.wisconsin.edu/direct-admissions/checklist/>

Completing the Direct Admit Form

<https://apply.wisconsin.edu/direct-admit>

Frequently Asked Questions

<https://apply.wisconsin.edu/direct-admit>



# Resources to Help with Application Questions

- UW Help
  - <https://uwhelp.wisconsin.edu/>
- Wisconsin Private Colleges
  - <https://www.wisconsinsprivatecolleges.org/>
- Education Planner
  - <http://www.educationplanner.org/students/preparing-for-school/apply>





# Letters of Recommendation

- ★ Letters can be written by community members, teachers, employers, coaches, etc.
- ★ Ask someone you have a relationship with.
- ★ Provide them with enough time and information to write a well-rounded and detailed letter
- ★ Letter of recommendation form will be required when you are asking a school staff member to write one.

## **Letter of Recommendation Request Form**

→ <https://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/schools/fhs/students/letter-of-recommendation.cfm>

OR

→ An updated resume

# Writing Essays

→ Some colleges will require you to write an essay. Please see links below for ideas on how to construct an essay that best fits you!

- ★ [College Essay Writing Tips](#)
- ★ [UW Help - Preparing Your Essay](#)



# How to Request a Transcript

1. Go to the parchment website - <http://www.parchment.com/>
2. Go to the student sign up page
3. Create a username and password. Send transcript and credentials only.
4. Need a credit/debit card - \$4.00 per transcript
5. You will need to have an email account to validate your information.
  - a. DO NOT use the Freedom School Email!
  - b. Create a personal email to use for professional communication.

# How to Request Your ACT Results

1. Go to the ACT website - <http://www.actstudent.org/>
2. Click on Sent Test Scores
3. Follow the directions on the website.

\*Some Universities/technical colleges still accept informal copies\*

\*\* The UW System has stated that they are not requiring the ACT for admission purposes. There are options in the application to send your school if you feel it serves as a strength of yours. Some of the UW Schools may want to access your results for scholarship and placement purposes. YOU will need to check with each institution to verify what their process is.\*\*



# Scholarships

- ❑ Local Scholarship Information for Freedom High School Seniors will be available during third term of this academic year.
- ❑ Scholarships for UW Colleges are also available. You will need to check on the school's website.
- ❑ Scholarship Links
  - ❑ [Freedom High School Scholarship Page](#)
  - ❑ [UW System Information](#)
  - ❑ [Wisconsin Private College Scholarship Information](#)
  - ❑ [Wisconsin Technical College Information Page](#)
- ❑ Additional Scholarships may be available through the following
  - ❑ Parent's Places of Employment
  - ❑ Veterans in Family
  - ❑ Insurance Carriers
  - ❑ Your Banks & Credit Unions
  - ❑ Various Associations
  - ❑ & MANY MORE - RESEARCH!!



**Families NEED to discuss the cost of college and what the financial arrangements will be. DO NOT assume that scholarships will cover the costs.**



# Financial Aid

## FASFA - FREE APPLICATION FOR FEDERAL STUDENT AID

### Begins Processing Application DECEMBER 1st!

- ❑ Grants and Loans based on Financial Need
- ❑ Will need family tax information and paperwork (i.e. W2's)
- ❑ Resources with helpful information and application help
  - ❑ Initial FASFA Application ~ [LINK](#)
  - ❑ UW Help FASFA Help ~ [LINK](#)
  - ❑ Understand Financial Aid (Ripon College) ~ [LINK](#)
  - ❑ Student Aid Estimator ~ [LINK](#)
  - ❑ Bucky's Pell Pathway and Bucky's Tuition Promise (UW Madison) ~ [LINK](#)



# Financial Aid - FASFA Thursdays @ FVTC

Current and future College students and their families can have questions answered and receive help completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at our Main Appleton Campus Room E112 A-B (enter at door 10 and stop at the Welcome Center for directions). (Parents also welcome to stop in and ask questions)

**Thursdays** (starting after 12/1/24)

**Drop-in session times:**

9:30am-10:30am

11:30am-12:30pm

2:30pm-3:30pm

4:30pm-6:00pm

**What to bring**

- **2023** Federal Tax Return and W2s
- **2023** Untaxed Income Records, such as child support or veteran's non-education benefits
- Information on savings, investments, business assets and farm assets (if applicable)
- Cell phone (if you have one)
- Driver's License (if you have one)
- Social Security Number
- Alien Registration Card or Permanent Resident Card (if you are not a U.S. citizen)
- Date of birth for parent(s)
- Be able to access a email account

If you are considered a **DEPENDENT STUDENT** (usually under the age of 24) for financial aid purposes, you will also need these items for your parent(s)





# Complete Credit Check

Seniors should refer to their high school transcript to complete a credit check.

- ☐ Classes taken this year
- ☐ Updated GPA
- ☐ ACT Score
- ☐ Class Rank
- ☐ Credits Completed/Senior Credits
- ☐ Academic Credits/Senior Academic Credits
- ☐ Total Credits/Total Academic Credits
- ☐ AP Classes taken/scheduled
- ☐ CAPP Classes taken/scheduled
- ☐ “Start College Now” or “Early College Credit” Classes taken/scheduled

# Checklist for Transcript Review

- ☐ Anything missing?
- ☐ Are there any incorrect grades or incompletes?
- ☐ Will graduation requirements be met? Check gradation requirements. (Counselors check but backup is good.)
- ☐ Check College Expectations
- ☐ Do you have a minimum of 17 academic credits?
- ☐ Maintaining good grades through senior year is a four year college expectation
- ☐ Check with colleges before dropping a class.

# Words of Wisdom for Seniors

Learn to **ADVOCATE** for yourself. → Advocate: (verb) to *push* for something.

- Attend informational meetings sponsored by your guidance office.
- Establish a personal, professional-sounding email account (other than your parents).  
**CHECK YOUR EMAILS DAILY!**
- Do your research - Search online for career and college information.
- Ask questions when taking campus tours or speaking with a college rep.
- Attain letters of recommendation in a timely manner.
  - ♦ Provide the people who will be writing your letters with plenty of notice
- Sent transcripts through Parchment website. Informal Transcript...
- Review your application from a computer prior to submitting it.
- Have **EARLY** conversations with your parents regarding the costs of college!

# Things to Avoid Doing!



- DO NOT wait until the last minute to apply for colleges/technical colleges.
- DO NOT ask for a letter of recommendation at the last minute.
- DO NOT use your school email account on your applications.
- DO NOT apply for college from your phone.
- DO NOT expect your mom/dad/guardian/school counselor to do all of this for you!

# BEST OF LUCK WITH THE APPLICATION PROCESS!

Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions! We are here to help you!

**Mrs. Vander Loop**



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You can also refer to our website for help with questions, forms, updates, information, helpful links.

<https://www.freedomschools.k12.wi.us/>

Click on Schools → High School → Main Menu → Student Resources → School Counseling → Student Resources