

2023-2024 SENIOR CHECKLIST

August-December

- Explore Careers and take a Career Quiz. <https://www.mynextmove.org/>
 - o **Pick your career first before you start choosing colleges or training programs**
- Make sure you are in the Counselor's **Remind**, and are getting all emails.
- Review your transcripts first thing in the fall! If you are behind in credits, make an appointment with your counselor and create an intervention plan.
- Take the ACT (or SAT) if you have not taken it yet or are dissatisfied with your score. Ask your counselor for your school's code and test preparation. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE.
 - o Free Practice Tests here: <https://baldwincountycareercoaches.weebly.com/academic-and-financial-aid-resources.html>
 - o [Al.kuder.com](http://al.kuder.com) > Test Prep
 - o Talk to your Counselor or Career Coach to see if you qualify for an ACT Waiver
- Visit college websites.
- Use al.kuder.com > "College Match" to see what colleges are the best match for you.
- Mark your planners/calendar with **deadlines for scholarships, financial aid, and admission** (many schools have early enrollment deadlines in the Fall).
 - o **Free College Application Week** is **October 16th-23rd, 2023** hosted at your school. Some college admission fees will be waived this week!
 - o Determine if you are eligible for admission and scholarships by GPA and test scores.
 - o Narrow down your list of possible schools – use the College Comparison attachment sheet to compare at least 3 colleges.
- Visit <https://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/> to determine how much financial aid you MAY qualify for when you apply for FAFSA
 - o Compare this amount to cost of attendance for schools on your list
 - o COMPLETING THE FAFSA OR A FAFSA WAIVER WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE 23-24 SCHOOL YEAR!
- Submit your FAFSA starting in DECEMBER. <https://studentaid.gov/>
FAFSA FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR OPENS DECEMBER 15th.
 - o Create an FSA ID. <https://studentaid.gov/fsa-id/create-account/launch?continueTo=fafsa>
 - o Easy to use tutorial: <http://www.finaid.ucsb.edu/Media/FAFSASimplification/index.html>
 - o **2024-2025 FAFSA uses parent/guardian's 2022 tax return**
 - o Some aid is given on a first-come-first-serve basis, so apply soon
 - o Look out for FAFSA night dates at your school
 - o Apply for work/study through FAFSA
- Visit your counselor or career coach to see if you are on track for admission into the schools that interest you. Most look at Act Score & GPA.
- You get TWO excused college visit days. Check with your counselor or career coach for college visitation guidelines and forms.
 - o Visit colleges that offer your program of interest and other qualities that are valuable to you.

- Make your Counselor's page a "favorite" and watch for announcements and newsletters
 - Bookmark the site and check it frequently
 - Use the information and links they provide to learn about scholarship opportunities and prepare for college and scholarship applications
- Make your Career Coach's page a "favorite" <https://baldwincountycareercoaches.weebly.com/>
 - Scholarships are posted frequently
- Apply to colleges before the deadline.
 - Most first priority deadlines are December 1st
 - Request transcripts from Parchement.com (final transcript will need to be sent in May)
- Know your GPA and class rank.
- Prepare a résumé. (Needs to be ready before you start your senior year).
- Practice Interview Skills for Scholarships or Jobs. (Career Coach is available two to three days a week at school to help with interview coaching).
- Request letters of recommendation from administrators, teachers, coaches, supervisors, club sponsors, and counselors for scholarships.
 - Follow guidelines
 - Ask for letters **well before** deadlines, not the day before
- Write a great general scholarship application essay. Then you can tweak for all scholarship essays.
 - <http://www.shmoop.com/college/personal-statement-examples.html>
 - <https://www.scholarships.com/financial-aid/college-scholarships/scholarship-application-strategies/top-10-tips-for-writing-effective-scholarship-essays/>
- Visit Career Coach Website
 - <https://baldwincountycareercoaches.weebly.com/scholarships.html>
- Visit the SENIOR GOOGLE CLASSROOM SPREADSHEET for scholarships that are uploaded weekly <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1TXfgTE3ditt9BaU2tTki6E8lnSgZv612FmA8-fg0WS0/edit?usp=sharing>
 - Apply early for scholarships – don't wait until the last minute!
 - Be persistent – apply to many scholarships
 - Many general, local scholarships are posted starting in Aug & Sept.
- Use free resources to search for scholarships as well.
 - Senior Google Classroom
 - <https://baldwincountycareercoaches.weebly.com/scholarships.html>
 - <https://www.goingmerry.com/>
 - <https://myscholly.com/>
 - <https://www.petersons.com/scholarship-search.aspx>
 - <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/scholarship-search>
 - <https://www.cappex.com/scholarships>
 - <https://www.goodcall.com/education/scholarship-guide/>
 - www.scholarships.com
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.unigo.com
 - <https://www.chegg.com/scholarships>
 - Al.kuder.com > click the right-side tab for scholarships

- Check your college's scholarship page for school scholarships
- Visit College Recruiters/Armed Forces when they come to your campus.
 - Attend college fairs, and job fairs that are offered at your school campus
- Continue to be involved on campus and in quality volunteer/community service activities. These look GREAT on a resume!
 - Run for office
 - Don't be a member in name only
 - Join clubs/ Get involved
 - Update you resume at the end of the semester

January-May

- Continue to monitor the status of ALL your applications.
- Prepare for your AP exams and complete your AP tests before summer.
- Compare financial aid packages from the colleges that received your FAFSA information.
 - Determine if you are going to need to accept student loans through FAFSA
- Start communicating with your College Admissions Dept. and Financial Aid Dept. to make sure you have all necessary documents in.
- Make your decision!
 - Let the school you choose know you will be attending
 - Inform your counselor of your school choice
 - Inform counselor/senior sponsor of your scholarships received
 - Inform any college rep that you were accepted to, that you will not be attending
 - Send your final transcript to the school you will be attending through <https://www.parchment.com/>
 - Submit any deposits needed by your school by their deadlines
- REPORT YOUR SCHOLARSHIP DOLLARS AMOUNT "OFFERED" TO YOUR COUNSELOR BY DEADLINE
- Apply for campus housing. Normally this is due the first week of March.
- Apply for a Summer Job and save up \$\$\$\$ for school!
- Sign up for College Summer Orientation.
- Cross everything off your graduation list and GRADUATE!!!

Questions?

Email: Morrell Baxter, College and Career Coach → mbaxter@bcbe.org