College Prep Checklist

❏ Make a list of 5-10 colleges

Dream/Reach school   Target School   Safety School

❏ Make an email solely for college applications
not necessary, but will help you keep track and be more organized!

❏ Create FSA ID → *yours & your parent's SSN are needed*. (If parents don't have an SSN, then not necessary, but you still need yours! If you don't have one, Sam and Gabby can help!)

❏ Create FAFSA
(Opens on October 1st of each year!The earlier you finish, the higher your chances of getting more money!)

❏ Create accounts for applications

Common App   Coalition App   Institutional Apps

❏ Make a list of school(s) requirements

GPA   Essay(s)
SAT/ACT scores   Tuition Fees and other
Recommendations   costs

❏ Retake SAT/ACT   (ask counselors for test wavers)

❏ Know your deadlines

❏ Gather recommendations

→ give teachers/counselors & recommenders at least 3 weeks to write the letter!

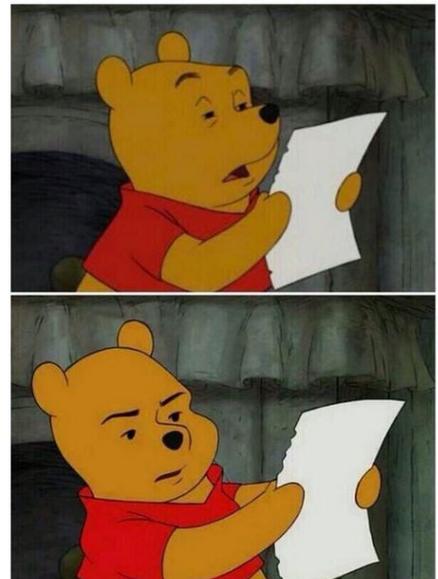❏ Write personal statement(s) (relate back to yourself, or turn your experience into an interesting story)

❏ Create Academic Resume → Extracurriculars, Awards, GPA, Volunteer/Work experience, Classes, Programs. This can also be used when you ask for recommendations.

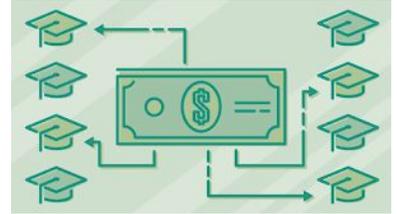❏ Connect your Common App to your Naviance (if necessary)

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❏ Talk to Counselors

❏ Save essays for future reference

❏ Apply to Scholarships

❏ Fill out institutional Financial aid forms once acceptance is received

❏ Fill out housing application (if necessary)

❏ Sign up for Orientation

College

Looking at that first syllabus like

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FINANCIAL AID INFORMATION

➢ **FAFSA opens October 1st** (EACH YEAR!)

    ■ https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa

    ○ Create FSA ID: https://fsaid.ed.gov/npas/index.htm

(SSN needed & parents need to make an account different from your own, remember your account information as you will reapply each year)
(FSA ID will be used to sign your FAFSA)

    ○ Fill out 2021-2022 FAFSA Application

➢ You will need your **2019 taxes** (yours & parents if you work or filed as independent)

➢ List the schools you applied to, or plan on applying to on your FAFSA; This will send your **Student Aid Report (SAR)** to your schools.

    ○ You can edit your application once it has been submitted; therefore you can add additional schools.

➢ **EFC (Expected Family Contribution):** Tells colleges how much money your family can pay for your education.

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Colorado Opportunity Fund (COF) -provides a stipend for new and continuing in-state students going to college in Colorado.   https://cof.college-assist.org/Apply

Applying for COF

Student Eligibility

Public Instiutions

Undergraduate students at participating public institutions may receive a stipend from the College Opportunity Fund if they meet the following requirements:

- Enrolled at a state institution of higher education
- Classified as an in-state student for tuition purposes
- Have applied for and been accepted into the COF program
- Have requested a payment from the COF on their behalf to their attending institution
- Are receiving undergraduate instruction
- Have not exceed their lifetime credit-hour limitation (145 credit hours) or have already completed their baccalaureate degree and are eligible to receive stipend payments for an additional 30 undergraduate credit hours

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SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

➢ **DEADLINES! DEADLINES! DEADLINES!**

- ○ Plan out your essays early, and complete them at least 1 week early. → Gives yourself time to revise!
- ○ Placing dates on a CALENDAR helps!

➢ Ask for recommendations EARLY! → Make a list of your accomplishments, extracurriculars, etc…

- ○ Ask teachers, supervisors, etc.. who've known you for 1+ years or someone you have a good relationship with (non-family)

➢ Apply for the **"smaller"** scholarships

- ○ Tend to be less competitive, **raising your chances of winning**

➢ "Bigger" scholarships are more competitive, but still **worth applying to!!** Make sure to build your resume! Search for more scholarships! Different scholarships have different deadlines throughout the school year.

➢ Start **applying for institutional scholarships** as soon as you receive acceptance!!!

- ○ Ex. CU Succeeds Scholarship (CU Denver), Kanes Scholarship (UCCS)