

# Senior Year College Checklist

## All Year

- \_\_\_ Work hard all year—second-semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.
- \_\_\_ Stay involved in after-school activities, and seek leadership roles if possible.

## Fall

- \_\_\_ Meet with your school registrar (Verne Sherman) to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements. **DONE AT REGISTRATION**, but stay on top of it!
- \_\_\_ As soon as possible after Oct 1, 2016 complete and submit your *Free Application for Federal Student Aid* (FAFSA®), along with any other financial aid applications your school(s) of choice may require. You can complete the FAFSA online or on paper, but completing the application online is faster and easier. You should submit your FAFSA by the earliest financial aid deadline of the schools to which you are applying, usually by early February.
- \_\_\_ After you submit the FAFSA, you should receive your *Student Aid Report* (SAR) within three days to three weeks. Quickly make any necessary corrections and submit them to the FAFSA processor.
- \_\_\_ If you haven't done so already, register for and take the standardized tests required for college admission. Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require. (**ACT offered December 11**)
- \_\_\_ Apply to the colleges you have chosen. Prepare your applications carefully. Follow the instructions, and **PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!**

\*\*\*Please note: If you are applying to Southern Adventist University, they will walk you through the registration process with school visits throughout the year. Other colleges will also be available at our **College Fair on October 13**.

- \_\_\_ Attend the **College Financial Presentation** at Highland Academy on **October 9**.
- \_\_\_ Well before your application deadlines, ask your registrar and teachers to submit required documents (e.g., transcript, letters of recommendation) to the colleges to which you're applying. Most applications will ask for you to specify who to send transcript requests and recommendation forms to. All transcript requests should be sent to [vsherman@highland-academy.com](mailto:vsherman@highland-academy.com).

## Winter

- \_\_\_ Complete tax forms as early as possible. Earlier applications mean better financial aid. If you have not completed tax forms, you can provide estimated information on your *federal student aid* application (FAFSA®), but remember to make any necessary changes later.
- \_\_\_ Complete any last scholarship applications

## Spring

- \_\_\_ Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll.
- \_\_\_ Review your college acceptances and compare the colleges' financial aid offers.
- \_\_\_ Contact a school's financial aid office if you have questions about the aid that school has offered you. In fact, getting to know your financial aid staff early is a good idea no matter what—they can tell you about deadlines, other aid for which you might wish to apply, and important paperwork you might need to submit.
- \_\_\_ When you decide which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit. Many schools require this notification and deposit by May 1.