Applying to College: 12th Grade Checklist

September

☐ Finish and submit the National College Match application.
  
  - Ask two teachers for recommendations at least three weeks in advance of the deadline. Give your teachers a resume and/or take time to tell them about QuestBridge, your extracurriculars, and anything else they should know. Your counselor will need to submit a Secondary School Report as well.
  
  - Have multiple people (peers, teachers, family, etc.) review your essays.

☐ Print out the National College Match timeline to keep track of the dates and process.

☐ Make a list of other scholarships you intend to apply to and their application deadlines.

☐ If you need to take or retake the SAT/SAT Subject Tests/ACT, do so in September or early October.

Early October

☐ While you wait to hear if you become a National College Match Finalist in late October, continue researching QuestBridge college partners.

☐ Rank QuestBridge college partners by the mid-October deadline. These colleges will consider you for a full four-year scholarship.

☐ The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) opens on October 1 — it is very important that you fill it out as soon after as possible.

By November 1

☐ If you are a Finalist, send in the required materials for the colleges you ranked. For example:
  
    - Request that your high school sends your transcript to the colleges you ranked.
    - Request official test score reports be sent to the colleges you ranked.
    - Complete the CSS /Financial Aid PROFILE or other financial forms. Send in copies of your parents’ federal income tax returns.

November

☐ Continue researching colleges and plan for Regular Decision in case you do not receive the College Match Scholarship.

☐ Pay attention to and apply to any colleges with earlier application deadlines. Some state universities have November deadlines. [Note: if you are a Finalist and ranking colleges, please read our Early Application Policy.]
December

- Find out if you have been “matched” with a full scholarship at a school you ranked on December 1. If so, you are done with the application process!

- If not, decide which college partners you will apply to through QuestBridge Regular Decision and begin preparing required materials. Submit by college-specific deadlines.

- Apply to non-QuestBridge mid-range and safety schools.

January

- Complete financial aid paperwork as required by the colleges you are applying to.

- Have your counselor submit a mid-year report with first term grades to the colleges you are applying to. This deadline is often in mid- to late-January.

- Focus on completing and submitting other scholarship applications.

April

- Receive Regular Decision admissions decisions by mid-April. Financial aid offers released around the same time.

- Carefully compare financial aid packages before deciding on a school.

- If you haven’t already, and if your resources allow for it, visit the college you hope to attend. Many offer admit weekends for prospective freshmen.

Early May

- Notify the colleges to which you were accepted of your decision.

June

- Ask your high school to send a final transcript to the college you will attend.

- Learn about options for housing and meal plans.

- Fill out any forms your college sends to you. Pay attention to your email inbox!

- Enjoy your summer, and prepare for your college experience. If you’re attending a partner college, connect with the other QuestBridge Scholars who will be attending!