

Preparing for College Admissions 12th Grade Checklist

Now that you are nearing the end of your high school career, you may feel like you want to take it easy. However, it's important to work harder than ever and finish strong. As a high-achieving student from a low-income background, there may be more opportunities out there for you than you realize. Use our checklist as a kick-off point and guide throughout the year.

AT SCHOOL

Continue to take the most rigorous coursework you can , making sure you are taking a class in each core subject. Colleges want to know that you are dedicated to learning as much as you can!	
Have conversations with your teachers and counselor about college applications. Continue to develop strong relationships with them so you can ask for recommendations and other application materials.	
Seek involvement or leadership positions in your extracurricular activities. This demonstrates to colleges that you dive deep into your passions, and that you will find ways to be involved in your college community.	

COLLEGE APPLICATION

Use our worksheet to help you brainstorm and explore college essay topics. Ask for feedback from others.	
Read through our Detailed FAQs about mechanics, structure, and content of a successful college essay.	
Map out your preparation and testing dates on a calendar to do as well as you can on standardized tests . Test: _____ Date: _____ Fee Waived: _____ Test: _____ Date: _____ Fee Waived: _____ Test: _____ Date: _____ Fee Waived: _____ Test: _____ Date: _____ Fee Waived: _____	

COLLEGE RESEARCH AND FINANCIAL AID

Have an open mind toward colleges you are unfamiliar with and consider opportunities that seem beyond reach. Top colleges can be more affordable for students from low-income backgrounds than public or community colleges.	
Visit the Paying for College section of our Student Resource Center to learn about the basics of financial aid.	
Use net price calculators to estimate what your financial aid package might look like at different colleges.	

NATIONAL COLLEGE MATCH

View all dates and deadlines for the National College Match. Learn more about the process and timeline and see if this could be your path to a top college !	
View our QuestTips videos to walk through different parts of the National College Match application.	
Visit our How to Apply page for a list of application components, resources, and requirements.	

DID YOU KNOW?

Match Scholarship Recipients are granted early admission to one of QuestBridge's college partners with a [full four-year scholarship](#).

Our college partners are dedicated to meeting [100% of students' demonstrated financial need](#).