

DSS 12th Grade Checklist



Fall



! Complete this list of to-dos in the fall to stay on track.

Done

Comments/
Concerns/Notes

Meet with your school counselor.

Meeting with your school counselor regularly ensures you're on track to achieve your postsecondary goals.

Create a résumé.

Take the time to create a great **résumé**. It will be a record of your academic accomplishments, extracurricular activities, volunteerism and work experiences since you started high school.

Apply for scholarships.

Research and apply for scholarships on the **Delaware Scholarship Compendium** (new scholarships are added each month).

Research other career opportunities.

Research apprenticeships, military enlistment, trade schools and certificate programs on our **Launch into Your Future page**.

Attend Career and College Fairs.

Attend career and college fairs in-person or virtually.

Make a final college list.

Finalize your college list on the **DSS College Application Planner**. Identify four to eight colleges that match your postsecondary plans, including in-state institutions.

Contact your references.

Provide a brag sheet and/or resume to those you asked to write your letter(s) of recommendation at least one month before your first application deadline. Don't forget to write them thank you notes.

Happy Launch into Your Future Month

In October and November, each school will dedicate time for students to help them launch into apprenticeships, certificate programs, college or trade school applications, entrepreneurship, military enlistment, and/or an on-demand career in Delaware.

Submit standardized test scores

Reminder: Submit your **standardized test scores** to your colleges. Some schools have test-optional policies. Learn more **here**.

Check your email!

For your applications, use your personal email account and check it regularly, including the junk mail folder, for communication from colleges.



Winter



! *Keep planning your success with these winter activities.*

Complete the FAFSA.

Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). Note that the FAFSA will not open in October 2023 and is expected to be available in or after December. For information and updates, visit our [FAFSA page](#).

Done

Comments/
Concerns/Notes

Continue to apply for scholarships.

Continue to research and apply for scholarships on the [Delaware Scholarship Compendium](#) (new scholarships are added each month). Also look into [state of Delaware scholarships](#).

Meet with your school counselor.

Talk with your school counselor to ensure you are on track for graduation and life after high school.

Check your email.

Check your email regularly to ensure you do not miss communications from colleges, jobs, apprenticeships, etc.

Spring



! *Finish your senior year strong with these spring activities.*

Organize and compare financial aid and college costs.

Use the DSS [Compare Financial Aid Award Letters](#) organizer to compare college costs and financial aid.

Continue the scholarship search.

Continue to search and apply for scholarships. Three state of Delaware [scholarships](#) that you may be eligible for are due May 15.

Happy Decision Day

Happy Decision Day on May 1. Make sure you have submitted your acceptance and made your deposit to attend the school of your choice.

Submit the FAFSA on time!

Complete the [FAFSA](#) by May 15 to be eligible for state and federal student financial aid.

Schedule a Health and Wellness visit.

Your school-based Wellness Center can provide many vaccinations required by colleges. Make an appointment before you graduate.

