



**KEYS  
TO  
SUCCESS**



## 12TH GRADE CHECKLISTS

### GRADE BY GRADE CHECKLISTS

Whether you're considering a 1-year certificate, a 2-year associate degree, a 4-year bachelor's degree, or a professional/graduate degree, these grade-by-grade checklists will help you prepare to be successful after high school!

12th Grade Checklist:

#### **Stay focused.**

- Check in with your counselor to make sure you're on track for graduation and college.
- Ask for letters of recommendation. Some colleges (and scholarships) require one or more letters of recommendation. Connect with teachers and counselors early in the fall of your senior year.

#### **Take math during your senior year.**

- Be sure to take the right math for your future career. Use the chart in the College Guide to help you figure out which math class is right for you.

#### **Apply to college in the fall.**

- Apply to colleges during the fall of your senior year. Participate in Utah College Application Week at your school. Ask your counselor for more information.
- Apply to more than one college so you can compare the colleges' financial aid offers as well as their class size, location, programs, and more. For help comparing colleges, see the Facts at a Glance.
- Check with the colleges you're applying to and see what ACT scores you should be aiming for. If you want to improve your score, retake the ACT the fall of your senior year. Check college admissions deadlines to make sure your new ACT scores will be ready in time.

#### **Fill out your FAFSA.**

- Complete your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) as early as October at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov).
- Even if you don't think you will qualify for federal grants, you should still fill out the FAFSA. Many colleges require it for scholarships and other aid.





- Get help completing your FAFSA by attending a FAFSA Completion Open House during the school year. Check with your counselor to find an event at your school or nearby.
- If you are a student with undocumented citizenship status, see what scholarship options might be available for you at [educate-utah.org](http://educate-utah.org).

### **What if I'm not going to college right away?**

- If you're planning on serving a religious mission, joining the military, or taking a break between high school and college, you should still complete your college and FAFSA applications. Once you have been accepted to college, you can defer (postpone) enrolling in classes and put a hold any scholarships you have been offered until you return. Find more information about the deferment process by visiting the admissions section of the college's website.

### **Continue applying for scholarships.**

- Research what scholarships are offered by the colleges you've applied to and check their deadlines.
- Learn about scholarships offered by the State of Utah on [ktsutah.com](http://ktsutah.com).
- Apply for as many scholarships as you can during your senior year. Use the resources at [ktsutah.com](http://ktsutah.com) to help you find scholarships.

### **Check on disabilities services**

- If you have an IEP/504 or a disability that will need accommodation, start making arrangements now by contacting your college's disabilities resource center.

### **Narrow it down.**

- Visit the websites or call any colleges you've been accepted to and ask about their first-year experience programs and summer bridge programs.
- Send in your final high school transcripts to your college once you graduate.
- Be sure to accept any financial aid you might have received. Talk with your college's financial aid office to make sure you're good to go.

### **Be proud. Celebrate!**

- Participate in your school's College Decision Day activities to celebrate your accomplishments. Ask your counselor for more information.