

# College Checklist

By Laura Cooper Peterson

- High School Juniors
  - Explore possible college majors and careers.
  - Talk with counselors, family and friends about possible choices.
  - Spend time in your library exploring career information.
  - Consult college and university representatives when they visit your school.
  - See your school counselor or the admission adviser of any college you are considering attending.
  - Make sure you will qualify for admission on the basis of class rank and high school course work.
  - Plan to complete any deficiencies in high school course work.
  - Tours and preview day programs offer a great opportunity to visit campuses.
  - Contact the campuses that interest you and make an appointment to visit.
  - Attend college and career fairs in your area.
- High School Seniors - Fall
  - If you have not already taken the ACT or SAT test, see your school counselor to register for the earliest possible test date.
  - Visit any college or university by making an appointment for a campus tour or preview day.
  - Begin researching scholarship opportunities and financial aid.
  - Check announcements at your school on scholarships, financial aid, college representative school visit, and education fairs.
- High School Seniors - Winter
  - Familiarize yourself with the financial aid process.
  - If financial aid information sessions are offered at your school, attend with your parents.
  - If you haven't already applied for admission, don't delay!
  - Many UW System campuses have admission or housing deadlines or priority dates after which they may not be able to accept applications.
  - Financial aid applications are available beginning January 1.

- Pick up a copy of the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from your school counselor or apply electronically.
- Check with your school counselor or campus financial aid office on the availability of local or campus scholarships.
- Several free scholarship searches can be found on the Web.
- High School Seniors - Spring
  - If you haven't already done so, you can still apply for financial aid.
  - Be aware of campus financial aid priority dates!
  - Make a reservation to participate in placement testing, orientation, and registration programs.
  - Each university will send information to admitted students with information on new student programs.
  - You can get a head start on your degree by enrolling in a summer session.
  - Check on course offerings and apply for college credit course work.
  - If you applied and were admitted to more than one college or university, notify any campus(es) that you have chosen not to attend.
- High School Seniors - Summer
  - Orientation, advising and registration programs are held on most campuses.
  - Be sure to register for the session you hope to attend or contact the campus for information or to make arrangements.
  - Keep any letters you receive for reference.
  - From late May through July, financial aid award letters will go to students who applied on time.
  - Be sure to read any letters carefully and respond by any deadline specified.