

11th Grade

Students

To Do:

All Year

- Review "Every Year in High School" on page 10 of this checklist.
- Explore careers and their earning potential in the *Occupational Outlook Handbook* at www.bls.gov/oco.
- Log on to your MyFSA account (see page 12) at www.studentaid.ed.gov/myfsa and look at the information for any colleges you saved if you completed the College Matching Wizard (see page 13) in the past. Try the college search again if you've changed your mind about what you want from a school.
- Go to college fairs and college-preparation presentations by college representatives.

Fall

- Take the PSAT/NMSQT.* You must take the test in 11th grade to qualify for scholarships and programs associated with the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Spring

- Register for and take exams for college admission.* The tests that many colleges require are the SAT, the SAT Subject Tests, and the ACT. Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require.
- Use www.studentaid.ed.gov/scholarship to find scholarships for which you might want to apply. Some deadlines fall as early as the summer between 11th and 12th grades, so prepare now to submit applications soon.

To Explore:

- Visit www.college.gov and click on "how to pay" to see how other young people paid for college.
- Learn how to avoid scholarship scams and identity theft from *Save Your Money, Save Your Identity* at www.studentaid.ed.gov/lisa.

Parents

To Do:

- Review "Every Year in High School" on pages 10 and 11 of this checklist.
- Take another look at your financial situation, and be sure you're on the right track to pay for college.
- Talk to your child about the schools he or she is considering. Ask why those schools appeal to your child, and help him or her clarify goals and priorities.
- Attend college fairs with your child, but don't take over the conversation with the college representatives. Just listen, and let your child do the talking.
- Take your child to visit college campuses, preferably when classes are in session.

To Explore:

- Get in-depth information on federal student aid programs at www.studentaid.ed.gov/funding.
- Learn about student and parent loans in *Your Federal Student Loans: Learn the Basics and Manage Your Debt* at www.studentaid.ed.gov/repayingpub.

***REMEMBER:** Register for all tests in advance and be sure to give yourself time to prepare appropriately! If you have difficulty paying a registration fee, see your school counselor about getting a fee waiver.