**Senior Year Check List**

**All Year:**

* **Work hard in your classes:** Don’t let senior-itis set it. It is important to remember that your full transcript (including Fall & Spring semesters) will be sent to the college you choose. Also, continually pushing yourself academically during senior year will make the transition to first year in college easier.
* **Stay involved:** Colleges appreciate involvement with school and community activities. Remain involved and look for leadership opportunities.

**Fall:**

* **Ask for letters of reference:** Find people who know you and your accomplishments and are willing to brag about them. Asking your references early allows them enough time, and will allow you to use the letters where you need. Letters of reference can come into play for applications and/or scholarships.
* **Take or retake tests:** Colleges accept the highest score achieved, whether ACT or SAT. Let the schools you applied to know you will be submitting new scores. Even boosting your score a little bit can result in a significant institutional aid increase.

[www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org) or <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/online-registration-help>

* **Apply to college:** Choose three to five schools (technical school, community college, university, etc) that are the best fit for you and your goals. Make sure you are aware of application deadlines, as many schools have moved them forward.
	+ - * Make sure everything required is sent in. Application, transcripts, essays, letters of recommendation, etc.
* **Apply for institutional aid:** Each school has a range of scholarships from a full ride to money that covers books. Every scholarship, no matter the amount, is worth your time. Scholarship details can commonly be found on the admissions page of the school website.
* **Get your FSA-ID:** In order to complete the FAFSA, a student and one parent (the one who claims them on taxes) need to apply for an FSA-ID. The FSA-ID, which only takes ten minutes to apply for, serves as a legal signature on the FAFSA. [www.fsaid.ed.gov](http://www.fsaid.ed.gov)
* **Fill out your FAFSA:** Starting in 2016, the FAFSA opens on October 1 and will use prior-prior year data (PPY). This means that the FAFSA will use 2015 tax data for the 2017-2018 academic year. While the priority deadlines is March 1, the faster you submit your FAFSA, the quicker schools can provide you with award letters. [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
* **Review your Student Aid Report (SAR):** Your SAR is a document that lists your answers from the FAFSA and provides basic information about your aid eligibility. If you see incorrect information, correct them and resubmit your FAFSA. Your SAR will arrive three days to three weeks after you complete the FAFSA.

**Winter:**

* **Celebrate acceptance letters:** It’s a big deal, so celebrate!
* **Compare award letters:** As your award letters come in, compare and contrast the amounts of aid you are being offered. Consider aid, location, instructor to student ratio, course offerings, etc, as you start to decide which school you want to attend.
* **Apply for national scholarships:** There is a scholarship for almost every characteristic, hobby, corporation and organization in America. Take some time to apply for these scholarships to help offset tuition, room & board, books, and living costs. [www.keweenawtrio.org/scholarship-search-information](http://www.keweenawtrio.org/scholarship-search-information)
* **Visit campuses you are considering:** Nothing will help you decide on a school more than visiting the campus and immersing yourself in their environment.

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**Dave Kamrad, Director**

kamrad@finlandia.edu

(906) 487-7235

**Emily Cibulka, Academic Advisor**

emily.cibulka@finlandia.edu

(906) 487-7259

**Dianne Goulette, Academic Advisor**

dianne.goulette@finlandia.edu

(906) 487-7218

**Marsha Salo, Academic Advisor**

marsha.salo@finlandia.edu

(906) 487-7390

Additional Resources:

[www.keweenawtrio.org](http://www.keweenawtrio.org)

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**Spring:**

* **Make a decision:** Consider all factors that are important to you, and choose your best fit. When you have decided, complete the schools verification process.
* **Contact the schools financial aid department:** If you have any questions about your financial aid package or how the school handles aid, contact the financial aid representative.
* **Complete required paperwork:** The school you choose will need various paperwork and deposits. Be sure to check your mail and email regularly and respond accordingly.
* **Apply for local scholarships:** Most local scholarships become available in the spring. Speak to your guidance counselor about local scholarships and deadlines. Put in a significant amount of effort into these scholarships because the pool of applicants is smaller.
* **Enjoy the end of your high school career:** Take time to relax and make good memories.