

Senior Year Step-by-Step

Lee Binz, The HomeScholar

www.HomeHighSchoolHelp.com

“Helping parents homeschool through high school”

Senior Year is a Season of Transition

- Parent roll changes over time: caretaker, teacher, mentor, friend.
 - Anticipate dramatic changes in maturity
 - Your goal for senior year: launch teen successfully into independent adulthood
-
-
-
-

Summer Before Senior Year

Evaluate readiness for graduation

- Necessary classes needed to graduate
- Necessary tests needed for future plans

Evaluation readiness for college applications

- Have you chosen 4-8 colleges where your teen will apply? [How to Find a College](#)
- Is there a mix of reach, fit, safety, public, and private? [Reach, Fit, and Safety Simplified](#)
- Have you visited each of those colleges and taken notes? [Visit Colleges in the Spring](#)
- Have you gotten to know admission adviser? [What Colleges Really Want is Demonstrated Interest](#)
- Have you compared college statistics? [Guidance Counselor Pro Tip: Read College Statistics](#)
- Does your teen know how to write application essays? [Tips for Tackling College Application Essays](#)
- Does the teen have two SAT or ACT tests completed already? [Super-score to Improve Scholarships](#)
- Can you complete all college applications one month before the deadline, for best results?
- Do you know the “college coupons” for scholarships? [How Homeschoolers Earn Scholarships](#)

Be ready with high school records: transcript, reading list, course description, activity list

Fall of Senior Year

- Begin applications the first day of senior year (deadlines vary)
 - Finalize homeschool records
 - Write application essays
 - Send homeschool records, including senior year classes
 - Complete the FAFSA on October 1st See: [FAFSA white paper on need-based scholarships](#)
-
-
-
-

Winter of Senior Year

- Scholarships come in waves: based on GPA/SAT/ACT, based on FAFSA, based on merit
 - College interviews: [How to Win a Scholarship Competition and Ace the Admission Interview](#)
 - Final college visits
 - Send mid-year reports
-
-
-
-

Spring of Senior Year

- Plan a celebration and order portraits, graduation announcement, cap and gown, diploma
 - Seek merit scholarships during senior year
 - Search for private scholarships
 - Shorten time at university with AP or CLEP exams
 - Choose a college to attend
 - Evaluate debt load
 - Ask for more money if needed
-
-
-
-

Summer After Senior Year

- Finalize homeschool records and transcript and send them to the college
 - Graduation date
 - Final grades
 - Final GPA
 - Save transcripts and records forever: digital and physical copy
 - Finalize life skills: [Prepare for Independent Living](#)
 - Shopping for college life: [College Packing List](#)
-
-
-
-

Fall After Senior Year

1. Face the empty nest: read [Letting Go When Homeschooling Ends](#)
 2. Focus on your 5-year plan: a healthy, happy, and close extended family
-
-
-
-

Freaked Out and Panicked

- Student focuses on application
 - Parent focuses on record keeping
 - Top tips for success
 1. Apply early in senior year (before Thanksgiving)
 2. Apply to 4-8 schools
 3. Apply to reach, fit and safety schools
-
-
-

Seriously-Behind Senior Year Last-Minute Emergency Panic Plan

1. Drop all school and activities and focus on application
 2. Quickly review scholarship tips
 3. Visit 4 closest colleges or top choices
 4. Register for first available SAT or ACT
 5. Determine if student is missing classes
 6. Replace unneeded class with needed ones
 7. Take the SAT or ACT if needed
 8. Apply to 2 public and 2 private colleges
 9. Write application essays as required
 10. Complete transcript and records
 11. Turn in application as soon as possible
 12. Return to regular homeschooling and plan graduation party
-
-
-

5 Year Plan for High School: Super Senior Year

- Delayed graduation, 13th grade, extra senior year, 5-year high school
- Reasons NOT to take a super senior year
 1. Perceived weaknesses that are not important
 2. Student is not compliant
- Good reasons to consider a senior year
 1. Maturity issues and the student is compliant
 2. Transition to college and the student is compliant
 3. Solve requirement issues and the student is compliant
- How to handle a super-senior year
 1. Create a transcript by subject with completion dates. ‘
 2. Write a cover letter
- Alternatives to a super-senior year
 1. Take a “Gap Year” [Gap Year: Time Off for Good Behavior](#)
 2. Find a perfect fit college or look to what’s next after high school

[illegible]

Suggested Resources

[Graduate Your Homeschooler in Style: Make Homeschool Graduation Memorable](#) Coffee Break Book
[College Admission and Scholarships: Homeschool Secrets to Getting Ready, Getting In and Getting Paid](#)
[College Launch Solution](#): prepare to successfully launch your teen into college and life
[Comprehensive Record Solution](#): create records for college admission and scholarships
[Gold Care Club](#): support and encouragement with weekly personal coaching