



**Peniel Baptist Academy**  
**"Educating PK2-12th Grade Students to the Glory of God"**

**College Countdown Checklist**

**9th Grade:**

- Focus on getting good grades! Your GPA starts now.
- Register on scholarship websites
- Watch for details about taking the PLAN (practice ACT) during November of your Sophomore year.
- Get involved. Try a variety of activities so that you can find out what really interests you.

**10th Grade:**

- Make good grades a priority. Your GPA continues to accumulate.
- Be ambitious and take tough classes. Flexing your brain now will help prepare you for the academic challenges of college.
- Register at scholarship websites.
- Take the PLAN (practice ACT) in November.
- Start thinking about careers that interest you.
- Think about selecting a college. Find out about different types of colleges and decide which characteristics of colleges are most important to you.
- Take the ASVAB (military test) in February and complete the Career Exploration program.
- Continue to participate in extracurricular activities.
- Begin preparing to take the SAT or the ACT.
- Save money and make financial preparations for college tuition, books, fees, housing, etc.

**11th Grade:**

**September**

- Keeping a high GPA is a MUST!! Your average at the end of your junior year is what goes on your college applications in the fall.
- Stay involved in a variety of areas. Colleges look for well-rounded applicants.

**October**

- Take the PSAT (practice SAT) in October.
- Gather information from colleges, tech schools, etc. Research admission requirements and application deadlines at [www.FACTS.org](http://www.FACTS.org). Make a list of about 5 potential colleges.
- Utilize your five college days. Request brochures and catalogs, attend college fairs, and begin visiting colleges.

**November**

- Consider taking a online Career Test or Quiz by visiting the "Guidance Corner" on the school's website.

**December**

- Start thinking about possible majors. Pick a major or two to help you narrow your college choices. Research what type of degree or certification is necessary for the career you believe God is calling you to pursue.
- Register at scholarship websites.

**January**

- Sign up to take the ACT and SAT
- Make sure you are using your PSAT online test assistance to review your PSAT test and read about addi-

tional college readiness ideas. Remember, your access code is on your PSAT score report.

### **February**

- Take the ASVAB (military test) in February and complete the Career Exploration program.

### **March**

- Start budgeting for college costs and search for scholarships. Sit down with your parents to find out if and how much they plan to contribute to your college education.

### **April**

- Sign up to retake the ACT and SAT by June to try for a higher score before your senior year.

### **June**

- All young men turning 18 must sign up with the selective service ([www.sss.gov/hslink.htm](http://www.sss.gov/hslink.htm))

### **July**

- Check credits and narrow your selection of colleges.
- Collect names and addresses of reference for recommendation letters.
- Request applications from the colleges of your choice.

## **12th Grade:**

### **September**

- Grades still matter. All schools will require a final transcript. Beware of Senioritis! Admission directors warn that "senioritis" may be hazardous to your educational health. College and universities may rescind their offer of admission if you do not follow through with the expected course work and maintain your grades. Avoid the urge to ease up on your studies during your senior year. Colleges look at how well you are able to balance your schoolwork with your activities and still maintain a good GPA.
- Register for the ACT and the SAT.
- Search for college scholarships (visit the school's website, visit individual college websites, search for private and corporate scholarships).

### **October**

- Attend college fairs.
- Finish gathering information on colleges, tech schools, military, etc. Select three you like best. Visit as many as possible. This is VERY important. I encourage you to make it a family trip. Ask the admissions office to help you arrange for not only a campus tour, but also class visits and contact with their students.
- Apply for scholarships.

### **November**

- Attempt to choose a major or general area of study. This will help you to make a good college match.
- **Send applications by Thanksgiving.**
- Register to retake the SAT or ACT if you aren't satisfied with your results. Ask for help from the faculty and staff. Don't wait until the last minute to study for these college tests.

### **December**

- File your Florida Financial Aid Application (FFAA) by January 15th.
- Continue to send applications and apply for scholarships.

### **January**

- Continue to send applications and apply for scholarships.
- File your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by May 1st (parents must have tax completed before applying). This must be completed first before you may receive most scholarships.

### **February**

- Take the ASVAB a final time if you are military bound.

### **March**

- Maintain Godly character is all you do.
- Finalize college plans (paying for tuition, room, board and living expenses).
- Continue to apply for scholarships.

### **April**

- Finalize college plans
- Continue to apply for scholarships.

### **May**

- Graduation time is here. Pay for cap and gown.
- Mail graduation announcement to family and friends.
- Prepare for your graduation table on commencement night.

### **June**

- Last opportunity to take the SAT and ACT is June.