



# Postsecondary & Financial Aid Advising Grades 11 - 12



## CHECKLIST!

This checklist aligns with Washington's financial aid cycle, WSAC milestones, and WSOS scholarship timelines. Use it to plan key advising moments and ensure students stay on track with financial aid, applications, and scholarships.

### JUNIOR YEAR

#### SPRING

MAR – JUN

#### SUMMER

JUL – SEP *before senior year*

#### Counselor Priorities

- Introduce **college + financial aid as a multi-step** process, not a single form
- Identify students interested in **STEM, health care, trades, or CTC pathways**
- Introduce major scholarship opportunities, including Washington State Opportunity Scholarship (WSOS) Baccalaureate Scholarship (BaS) and the Career & Technical Scholarship (CTS)
- Encourage early **college exploration** and campus visits
- Integrate financial aid awareness into junior meetings, advisory periods, or other planning periods.

- Encourage students and families to **create FSA IDs early**
- Explain FAFSA vs. WASFA requirements** based on citizenship status
- Encourage students to **create college application accounts** (Common App or institutional portals)
- Identify seniors who will need **deeper FAFSA/WASFA** support



*Did you know that 92%\* of high school seniors who complete the FAFSA attend college the fall immediately after graduation? Don't let your high school students leave money on the table or their future uncertain!*

#### Key Student Milestones

- ◆ Begin career and pathway exploration
- ◆ Start building an initial college list
- ◆ Learn about scholarship opportunities

- ◆ Student and parent FSA IDs created
- ◆ College application platforms set up
- ◆ Scholarship planning begins

#### WSOS Support

- ✓ **Information sessions** for juniors on college pathways and cost of attendance
- ✓ **Train-the-trainer sessions** for counseling staff on:
  - WSOS programs (BaS & CTS)
  - Eligibility basics
  - FAFSA/WASFA requirement for WSOS
- ✓ **Access to WSOS Promotion materials** (slides, flyers, videos)
- ✓ Participate in **college/career fairs or spring events**

- ✓ **FAFSA/WASFA readiness workshops**
- ✓ WSOS-created **Financial Aid 101 materials** for families
- ✓ Promotion of **OtterBot** sign-ups for FAFSA/WASFA reminders
- ✓ **Counselor toolkits** for fall FAFSA launch



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## CHECKLIST!

SENIOR YEAR

### FALL

OCT - DEC

### WINTER

JAN - FEB

#### Counselor Priorities

- Host or promote **FAFSA/WASFA** completion events (starting Oct. 1)
- Monitor completion rates using the WSAC FAFSA portal
- Support early action / early decision college deadlines
- Promote fall scholarship deadlines
- Begin **WSOS scholarship awareness push**

- Support students applying for WSOS scholarships (BaS and CTS)
- Ensure FAFSA/WASFA is **submitted before WSOS deadlines**
- Remind students to submit **regular decision college applications**
- Help students upload required financial aid documentation and resolve issues

#### Key Student Deadlines

- ◆ FAFSA/WASFA opens **October 1**
- ◆ Early action/decision college deadlines (varies by school)
- ◆ Local & national scholarships

#### Key WSOS Deadlines

- ◆ **WSOS Baccalaureate Scholarship (BaS)**
  - FAFSA/WASFA must be completed by the BaS deadline
- ◆ **WSOS Career & Technical Scholarship (CTS)**
  - FAFSA/WASFA required by application deadline



*Exact deadlines vary annually; refer to WSOS-published dates on our website*

#### WSOS Support

- ✓ **In-person or virtual FAFSA/WASFA completion nights** (often paired with food, incentives, and raffles to increase attendance)
- ✓ Participation in **senior nights** and **financial aid events**
- ✓ **Messaging and support** on topics such as:
  - The value of education and training after high school
  - Local and regional workforce needs to help parents and families understand the jobs and careers available once students access postsecondary credentials
  - FAFSA/WASFA completion: (FAFSA/WASFA is **required** for WSOS eligibility)
  - Promoting WSOS

#### WSOS Support

- ✓ **WSOS application workshops** (BaS & CTS)
- ✓ **Information sessions** explaining eligibility, GPA, income, and programs
- ✓ **School-specific support** to reach FAFSA/WASFA completion goals



*Need promotion materials for your school? Scan this QR code or email [info@waopportunityscholarship.org](mailto:info@waopportunityscholarship.org).*

