



## Post-Secondary Preparation Checklist for Incoming Seniors

by College for Rural Wisconsin Rural Peer Advisors

### Why a Checklist?

With how overwhelming the entire post-secondary process is, it can be hard to figure out all that you should do/must be done in order to be fully prepared for the process. Using this checklist, we hope to help ease the process and highlight a couple of things that you can do to help begin this confusing and overwhelming process.

#### **During Summer Break:**

- Make a list of potential schools (use the bucket model method to make this step simpler!)
- Figure out 3 people to ask for letters of recommendation from
- Look/apply for scholarships
- Attend either in-person or virtual tours for the listed potential schools
- Take a look at the application requirements for potential schools and make note of the requirements for their applications
- Volunteer, work, or participate in activities to distinguish your application

#### **During the Winter Break:**

- If you did not do ED or EA, complete regular decision applications
- Decide on which courses to take to during the spring term based on the requirements from your potential schools
- Guess what, continue looking and filling out scholarships
- Research and make a list of different tuition payment plans/assistive programs that your potential schools have
- Complete financial aid forms
- Update your resume, always good to keep that up to date

#### **During the Fall Term:**

- Begin to work on application essays
- Ask your people you selected for letters of recommendation for those letters
- If you decide on early decision (ED) or early application (EA), complete and submit those applications
- If you aren't doing ED or EA, continue to finalize list of schools you are sending applications to
- Continue to look and fill out scholarships
- Look up the application date for the FAFSA and make note of when to complete the form

#### **During the Spring Term:**

- Decide and declare which school you will be attending
- Keep pushing forward with your classes, senioritis sucks but don't let it slow you down
- With that, keeping finding and filling out those scholarships
- Register for your schools placement tests
- Research additional payment methods at your selected schools, they're there to help you out and have alternative options for you
- Celebrate all that you've done and achieved for yourself