



# College Prep Checklist

Grades 9-12 for both  
parents and students





# 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



9<sup>TH</sup>



## STUDENTS

### TO DO:

- Take challenging classes in core academic subjects. Most colleges require four years of English, at least three years of social studies (history, civics, geography, economics, etc.), three years of mathematics, and three years of science, and many require two years of a foreign language. Round out your course load with classes in computer science, the arts or other electives that support your interests.
- Work with one of your parents to estimate your financial aid using **FAFSA4caster** and be sure to save for your future college decision.
- Feed your passions! Explore your interests by working, volunteering, and/or participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts, or science. Find community or school activities that will engage you and allow you to learn more about yourself and others. Don't feel like you have to do everything just to check the "activities" box on college applications later, but be sure to participate in things that really interest you.
- Challenge yourself academically. Do your best work in the highest level classes available to you, but in which you are comfortable and can succeed. Admissions officers may appreciate a B in an honors or Advanced Placement class more than an A in an easier course.
- Research careers in agriculture, the environment and natural sciences. Go out and talk to professionals who are actively engaged in the careers that interest you. Figure out your own strengths and weaknesses and how well they match with your career interests.
- Start a list of your awards, honors, paid and volunteer work, and extracurricular activities. Update it throughout high school. Be specific! Include the names of organizations along with the dates and details of your involvement. Be sure to collect contact information along the way from adults who mentor or employ you because you may want them to write a letter or recommendation down the road.

### TO EXPLORE:

- Learn about managing your money.
- Explore reasons to consider college and ways you can get help preparing for it.
- If you have an older sibling or friends who are already in college, talk to them when they come home on breaks about things they wish they had done as a freshman.

9<sup>TH</sup>



## PARENTS

### TO DO:

- Talk to your child about college plans as if he or she will definitely go to college.
- Understand that the primary responsibility for financing college expenses rests with the student and parents so add to your child's college savings account regularly, and make sure you are fully aware of the provisions of the account.
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### TO EXPLORE:

- Get tips from **Help Your Child With Test-Taking**.
- Read **"Parent Power"** to access ideas for remaining involved in your child's progress.

### DID YOU KNOW?

Students who graduate from programs like CAENS at Tuskegee can sometimes secure jobs later with government organizations like the USDA. Professionals working from the government can take advantage of student loan repayment programs, child care centers, federal credit unions, flexible schedules and more.





# 10<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



10<sup>TH</sup>



STUDENTS

## TO DO:

- Meet with your school counselor or mentor to discuss colleges and their requirements.
- Study for and take a practice exam like the PSAT. Many schools also look at ACT scores, so familiarize yourself with that exam as well.
- Plan to use your summer wisely: Work, volunteer, or take a summer course (away or at a local college).
- Go to career information events to get a more detailed look at career options. Talk to professionals who seem like they have interesting careers. If you want to be a vet, go talk to one! Look for seminars at local colleges and universities. Go online to find interviews with people who work in agriculture, environmental sciences and nutrition.
- Research majors that might be a good fit with your interests and goals based on your results from the U.S. Department of Labor's **career search**.

## TO EXPLORE:

- Get in the habit of reading every single day. People who read more know more. The habit will pay off later when you're reading coursework in college or taking comprehension tests.
- Become familiar with college entrance requirements. Pay close attention to the requirements for programs that interest you, like the **CAENS program** at Tuskegee.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Researchers in the CAENS program at Tuskegee are using GC/MS and HPLC technology to develop food products for NASA's Advanced Life Support for long-term space missions involving humans.

10<sup>TH</sup>



PARENTS

## TO DO:

- Plan to attend college nights or financial aid nights in your community. Be sure your child has a list of questions developed to ask admissions counselors. Get the names of the representatives you meet.
- Continue to invest in and monitor your child's college savings account.
- Help your child find activities or a part-time job which will help them develop critical thinking skills, intellectual curiosity and a desire for lifelong learning. These are all essential components required to help them become leaders in basic and applied agricultural, biological and chemical sciences.

## TO EXPLORE:

- Learn about the standardized tests your child will be taking during 10th through 12th grades.
- Get a brief overview of financial aid from Federal Student Aid at a Glance.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Students who pursue a degree in biological sciences can go on to become veterinarians, physicians, pharmacists, forest rangers, genetic counselors, botanists, patent lawyers and more!





# 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



11<sup>TH</sup>



STUDENTS

## TO DO:

- This is it. This is the year that has real tangible tasks for you to complete to prepare for your future in college. Focus on your grades, your entrance exams and your college search.
- Explore careers and their earning potential with the **Occupational Outlook Handbook** search tool. Or, for a fun interactive tool, try this **career search**.
- Learn what Tuskegee offers CAENS students. Learn about undergraduate degree **programs** and schedule your **Tuskegee campus visit** online at <http://www.tuskegee.edu/tours.aspx>
- Get in touch with the admissions staff at Tuskegee. Call them at 1-800-622-6531 or email them at [admissions@mytu.tuskegee.edu](mailto:admissions@mytu.tuskegee.edu). Let them know you're considering a CAENS education.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT. You must take the test in 11th grade to qualify for scholarships and programs associated with the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Register for and take exams for college admission. The standardized tests that many colleges require are the SAT, the SAT Subject Tests, and the ACT. Check with the colleges you are considering to see which tests they require. Be sure to send your scores to Tuskegee by using our school codes when you register (SAT - 1813; ACT - 0050).
- Use a free scholarship search to find scholarships for which you might want to apply. Some deadlines fall as early as the summer between 11th and 12th grades, so prepare now to submit applications soon. There are a number of scholarships you may qualify for at Tuskegee, including seven endowed scholarships in the CAENS program. Find out more information at <http://www.tuskegee.edu/scholarships.aspx>.
- Narrow down the list of colleges you are considering attending. If you can, visit the schools that interest you.
- Contact colleges to request information and applications for admission. Ask about financial aid, admission requirements, and deadlines.
- FAFSA can help you determine the actual costs of the colleges to which you apply. They have a financial aid estimator so that you can make real decisions about the schools you are considering. Use the FAFSA tool called the **FAFSA4caster** to help you minimize the amount of money you borrow so you have less to pay back after graduation.

## TO EXPLORE:

- Communicate with your high school guidance counselors so they can get to know you.
- Seek a summer internship, workshop or summer camp in a career field that interests you. TU offers several summer programs for high school students.

11<sup>TH</sup>



PARENTS

## TO DO:

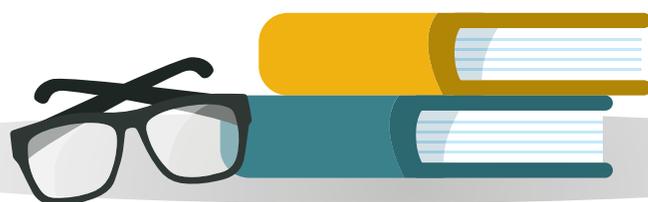
- Evaluate your financial situation to be sure you are on the right track to pay for college. Remember that the primary responsibility for financing college expenses rests with the student and parents.
- Talk to your child about the schools he or she is considering. Ask why those schools appeal to your child, and help him or her clarify goals and priorities.
- Attend college fairs with your child, but don't take over the conversation with the college representatives. Just listen, and let your child do the talking.
- Take your child to visit college campuses, preferably when classes are in session. Summer and vacation time can be busy, so make efforts to schedule your tours well in advance.
- Make sure your child is looking into or already has applied for scholarships.
- Ask your employer whether scholarships are available for employees' children.

## TO EXPLORE:

- Find out how the federal student aid application process works.
- Learn about student and parent loans in **Federal Student Loans: Basics for Students and Federal Student Loans: Direct PLUS Loan Basics for Parents**.
- Admission requirements for the CAENS program at Tuskegee include at least a 3.0 GPA, a 21 ACT score or a 1000 SAT score. If your student needs assistance meeting these requirements, check with your school to see if tutors and/or additional classes are available to help.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Agriculture positions are not only production-based, but encompass broad career paths such as sales representatives, research scientists, quality assurance, marketing and engineers.



# 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE



12<sup>TH</sup>



STUDENTS

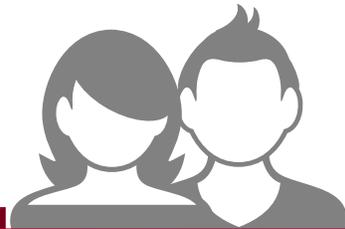
## TO DO:

- Work hard all the way to graduation—second-semester grades can affect scholarship eligibility.
- Stay involved in extra-curricular activities, and seek leadership roles if possible.
- As soon as possible after its Oct. 1 release, complete and submit your Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at [fafsa.gov](https://fafsa.gov), along with any other financial aid applications your chosen school(s) may require.
- If you haven't done so already, register for and take the standardized tests required for college admission. Check with the colleges you are considering to see what tests they require. Tuskegee requires scores from either the SAT or the ACT. Be sure to send your scores to Tuskegee by using our school codes when you register (SAT - 1813; ACT - 0050).
- Apply to the colleges you have chosen. Prepare your applications carefully. Follow the instructions, and **PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!**
- Well before your college application deadlines, ask your counselor and teachers to submit the required documents (e.g., transcript, letters of recommendation) to the colleges to which you're applying.
- Complete any last scholarship applications.
- Visit colleges that have invited you to enroll. You can visit CAENS at the Tuskegee Spring Open House.
- Review your college acceptances and compare the colleges' financial aid offers.
- Contact a school's financial aid office if you have questions about the aid that school has offered you. Staff at **Tuskegee's Office of Financial Aid** will do everything possible to assist you with finding aid.
- When you decide which school you want to attend, notify that school of your commitment and submit any required financial deposit. Many schools require this notification and deposit by May. March 31 is the priority deadline for CAENS, and June 30 is the final deadline.

## TO EXPLORE:

- Interested in veterinary science? Tuskegee University is the only historically black college or university with a fully accredited College of Veterinary Medicine that offers the Doctoral Degree and produces over 75% of the African-American veterinarians in the world.
- Are you interested in being a part of our nation's history? Tuskegee was founded on July 4, 1881 in a one-room shanty with thirty adults taught by Dr. Booker T. Washington. Today, the campus has grown to more than 3,000 students with approximately 5,000 acres and more than 70 buildings.
- Follow your passions. Whether you love biological sciences, environmental sciences, nutrition, agriculture or something else, you can explore it at CAENS with world-class professors, top-notch fellow students and an administration dedicated to impacting our world in a positive way.

12<sup>TH</sup>



PARENTS

## TO DO:

- Work with your child to complete the FAFSA. Colleges will work hard to provide financial assistance planning, but the student and the parent have the primary responsibility for paying for college.
- Be sure that your child is fully aware of all application and scholarship deadlines.
- When acceptances arrive, pay attention to decision deadlines and let the top choice know in time.
- Be sure that tuition deposits are paid on time to ensure your child's spot for fall classes.

## TO EXPLORE:

- Do the schools where your child has been accepted have on-campus programs for admitted students? Can they sit in on classes or stay overnight in a dorm?
- Find out about opportunities for parents to stay informed and connected to the school your child plans to attend. When is parent weekend?
- The decision is made, now get ready to cheer on your rising college student by sporting the school colors!

## DID YOU KNOW?

Did You Know? 75-95% of recent graduates from Tuskegee University are employed full-time, enrolled in graduate studies or are in the military one year after graduation.



GRADUATE