



# NACP Dolphin Alumni Network

## 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Check List

*11<sup>th</sup> grade year is a crucial year for college admissions and testing.  
Stay focused! You can do this!*

### *Fall (September – December)*

- Make sure you have your 'College Scholar' Folder organized!
- Complete the 'Free and Reduced Lunch form EVERY year.
- Sign up for the AVID class in order to qualify for the Dell Scholar Scholarship
- Sign up for Hispanic Scholarship Fund ([www.hsf.net](http://www.hsf.net)) if you qualify
- Update your profile on the [www.csumentor.edu](http://www.csumentor.edu)
- Sign up for scholarship search engines like:
  - Fastweb.com - [www.zinch.com](http://www.zinch.com) - [www.scholarships360.org](http://www.scholarships360.org)
  - Freetestprep.com (To prepare for the SAT/ACT's)
- Make an appointment to visit your **academic counselor** and introduce yourself:
  - Review your 2-year class schedule and a-g UC/CSU requirements.
  - If you are able to handle AP classes, this is the year to take them.
  - Know when report cards come out and ask for progress updates.
  - Sign up for the **PSAT**. Sign up for **FreeTestPrep.com** to practice vocabulary and math questions.
  - Sign up for the **fee waivers** for the PSAT
  - Check out [collegedata.com](http://collegedata.com) and [collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org) for college info
  - You can take general education (GE's) college courses at a community college WHILE in high school. This is called 'Concurrent' or 'Dual' enrollment. Ask if you meet certain requirements (it's cheaper this way!).
- Make an appointment to visit your **college/career counselor** and introduce yourself:
  - **Ask:** Are you aware of any scholarships available to 11th graders?
  - **Ask:** Are there any local college fair and financial aid workshops coming up this fall or spring? Write down the dates and tell your parents.
  - **Ask:** Do you have a program where I can learn about other professions and the college degree they require?
  - **Confirm** dates on college fairs, financial aid workshops, or college open houses.

- If you are an athlete and desire to do collegiate sports, look in to the NCAA requirements.



- During **Thanksgiving Break** Writing Session
  - Visit Taft High School's College Corner ([www.tafthigh.org](http://www.tafthigh.org)) and click through the valuable resources on the right hand side.
  - Use this time to apply for scholarships and/or get the essays or projects ready. Check for deadlines and needed letters of recommendations.
  - Start to narrow down your choices of colleges (large/small, local/far) and list their cost of attendance and other factors ([collegedata.com](http://collegedata.com))
  - Update your resume of activities and volunteer hours.

### **Winter Break**

- This is the final stretch of schooling and these last 2 years will fly by! Let's get on those scholarships and apply to as many as possible. Be sure to meet with an advisor but also do essay drafts on your own time. At least 8-10 hours a week during this break! Stay focused!
- Do some volunteer work during the holidays. Can't find a group? Start your own! Brainstorm with a friend or your advisor.
- Prepare your cover letter for your request for a recommendation from two teachers for QuestBridge College Prep Scholarship Program. Get the test score/transcripts documents together. ([www.questbridge.org](http://www.questbridge.org))

### **Winter (January – March)**

- Complete the QuestBridge application for the College Prep Scholarship Program. Get a copy of your parents tax documents as well.
- Talk to your parents about your strengths and weaknesses. Explore tutoring resources if you need help (ask your teacher and academic counselor for information).
- Look at the clubs offered and get involved in the ones that interest you. Already in a club? Move into a leadership position.
- Start asking for letters of recommendation if you need them for scholarships.

### **Spring (April – June)**

- Use some time to research careers and to learn more about yourself
- Do you know what you will choose to do when you get older? What do you enjoy doing now? Visit [www.mynextmove.org](http://www.mynextmove.org) to learn about different careers.

- Keep applying for scholarships in the evening and on weekends.
- Make good use of your summer time off! Time is valuable. Don't waste it!



### Summer (July – August)

- Consider working, volunteering and/or participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts or science. Remember it's **QUALITY**, not **QUANTITY** that counts!
- Use this time to get essay drafts done for scholarships that are due during the school year. You should be spending at least 4-5 hours a week looking for **FREE** money for college. Your **SENIOR** year is the **MOST** important for scholarships! Don't slack off!
- Have your sheet of the final 9 colleges and their costs of attendance completed by the end of the summer.
- Keep studying for the SAT/ACT test on your own. Look for free or paid workshops offered in your community ([freetestprep.com](http://freetestprep.com))
- Start a SAT study group with other ***focused*** students. Help each other succeed.

