

Hints & Tips for Graduating Seniors

Before you are a graduating senior:

- 4-H Members: Complete a 4-H RECORDBOOK!!! This will save you time and stress when filling out your college and scholarship applications!!!!
- Build up your grades and do a great job! Every grade counts! Don't slack off!
- Work on building your leadership, community service, and experiences at all levels!
- Take the SAT **and** ACT **many times**

Summer/Early Fall of Senior Year:

- Apply in August/September for Colleges/Universities (some scholarship applications require acceptance to at least 1 school and it will help if accepted or not)
- Apply for many different schools (small and large-local and distant)
- Keep in mind some scholarships are restrictive to Colleges/Universities
- Look for and apply for Scholarships available and make a timeline for each deadline
- Work on Essays for scholarships (find basic ones that you know that you will have to have completed)
- Complete FAFSA
- Carve out at least 1-2 hours a week to look for scholarships and apply.
- Don't wait till the last minute!
- Transcripts– See if your counselor will provide you with many copies of your transcript and ask for a print out so you can see so you know it is correct. Give counselor plenty of time to print out your transcript because they have a lot of seniors to manage.
- Recommendation Letters– Make sure and give those who are writing a recommendation letter at least 2-3 weeks to complete it. Also provide them with information about you for your letter so they do not forget or have to search. This information needs to include a list of leadership, community service, and project experiences/work involvement you have had with them directly within their association with you.
- Keep an updated list of all the scholarships you have completed, received word, and how much they are worth. This will be required for some scholarships and is handy to know how much you have earned and if you have received word yet.
- Keep up to date with Milam County 4-H Scholarship website with all the dates of the scholarships: <http://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-activities/scholarships/> (this is not just for 4-H members)
- Keep in mind some scholarships are available for college students so always be looking for new scholarships while in college.

Applying for Scholarships

- Place important information on the left side
- List important information or more significant information at the top unless noted to put in date order
- Choose items that make IMPACT– Provide numbers that make impact (ie: people reached/taught, items collected, money raised)
- Work on Essays ahead of time
- Have an English teacher or other teacher/educator review your applications for errors or ways to improve.
- Follow the GUIDELINES!!!!- You may lose out on an important scholarship if you do not read ALL of the guidelines. Set down with a highlighter and review each scholarship in its entirety.
- REMEMBER!!!!- When filling out your scholarship– Always ask?! Who cares!?????
- Make sure and make the essays unique. Might bold important words/sentences to the essay to stand out

Interviewing/Banquet

- Review Interview Bank of Questions– VERY IMPORTANT!!!!
- Have an opinion/stance on some questions, but not too strong to come across rude.
- Review your scholarship application and make sure you remember and they match.
- Dress: Suits, panty hose, close toed shoes, no nail polish, minimal or no jewelry, no perfume/cologne, tie, hair out of face, subtle clothing and makeup
- Posture: Sit up and not slouched, cross legs or to side, do not lean on desk, hands on table and keep from covering mouth or face, don't do any nervous habits
- Etiquette– learn table etiquette before banquet
- Shake Hands– before and after interview
- Wait to be seated
- Banquet– Interact with donors. Ask them questions about their career path, use some questions from question bank.

Senior year is here and it is your graduating year. As 4-H members it will be so busy because we have a lot of seniors this year. I would like to give you some tips and hints to prepare for this year!

1. Please make sure you are completing your FAFSA. Most applications want this completed no later than November and will not be accepting applications without it.
2. APPLY for school NOW!!! Start applying for schools now so you can apply for fall scholarships and be accepted early!
3. Take your ACT/SAT over and over!!! Take BOTH tests to see which one best suit your testing ability!
4. Look for a professional outfit to use for all interviews and meetings you go to preparing for college and jobs.
5. Start researching scholarships now so you know when they are going to be due around next year- Check out our website for some: <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-activities/scholarships/>
6. Make a google folder or regular folder on your computer and put all scholarships you get in that folder.
 - a. Make a google sheet/excel sheet and start making a list of scholarships, when they are due, completed, how much it is worth, and if you were awarded
 - b. Make google document with essays that are important to fill out
 - c. Use your 4-H recordbook to fill out scholarships.
 - d. Share with your parent who will be helping you
7. Start collecting transcripts if possible and make sure your counselor knows you will need a lot for scholarships. Tell them you need them soon because the 4-H scholarship is due in February.
8. Please make sure you keep up with scholarships for 4-H on the website: <https://counties.agrilife.org/mc4h/4-h-activities/scholarships/> I will not always email you about scholarships so you will need to keep an eye out for these on the website!
9. MOMS and DADS: Remember to help your seniors!!! Don't expect them to do these scholarships on their own! Yes, they can do it but help them along the way!!!
10. Work on your leadership and community service!! These are important to do so you have great scholarships that show you are a great leader!
11. Let other people review your scholarships like English teachers to make sure it flows and looks great!
12. Recommendation letters: Please make sure and give your important people at LEAST 2 weeks to complete letters. You might even talk to them earlier about getting it done now and making a general letter for you to use on all scholarships!

Congratulations on doing so well this far!!!! Keep up the great work and let me know if I can help you with anything else!!! I look forward to helping you achieve more this year!