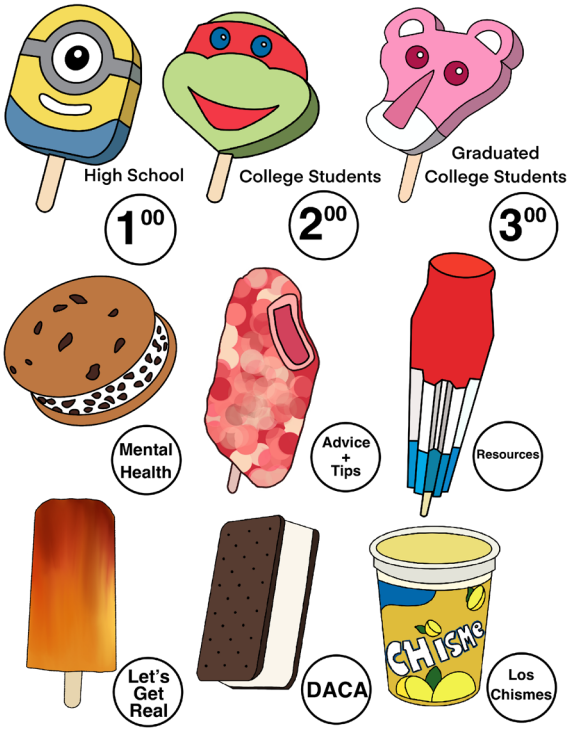
Junior/
Senior
Checklist
9

Who is First-Generation College Chisme?

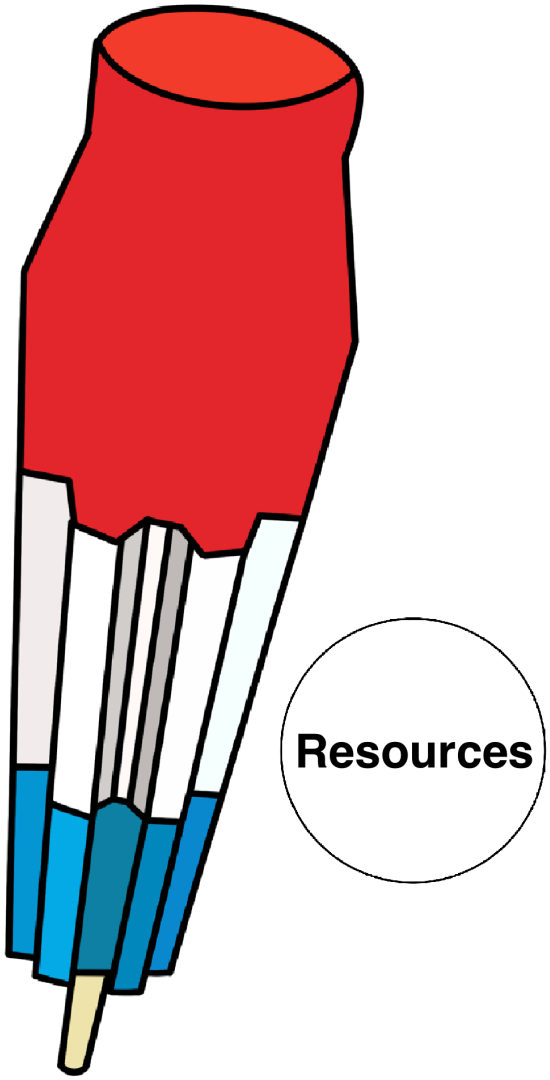
Mission:
First-Generation College Chisme is a bilingual college resource for BIPOC, Low-Income, and First-Generation students.

The First-Generation College Chisme website provides students with the opportunities to learn more about college through our six categories: Resources, Advice + Tips, Mental Health, DACA, Los Chismes and Let's Get Real. We understand the hustle and hope we can help students through their college journey's.

www.firstgenchisme.com



High School Student Resources



The information found on this PDF can be found on our **Resources** paleta in the **High School Students** section.

https://www.firstgenchisme.com/resources-hs

High School Junior/Senior Year Checklist

Junior Year- January/February

- [ ] -Start exploring careers. Take career assessments online! Ex: https://www.yourfreecareertest.com/

- [ ] Start researching schools of interest. Develop a list of 15 to 20 colleges that interest you!

- [ ] Take the February ACT or a practice ACT assessment. -This will allow you to see where you are (strengths/weaknesses). Continue/enroll ACT Prep courses. Study for your mandatory April ACT that all juniors have to take. (If you are on free and/or reduced lunch, there are ree waivers that you are provided to take the ACT).

- [ ] Continue to get involved in school and outside activities and organizations.

Junior Year- April/May

- [ ] Take the mandatory ACT that all junior have to take in the district.

☐ Review your transcript.
• Are there classes you should take in your senior year to be college ready?
• Are there classes you should be taking in your senior year to complete your
rigorous curriculum?
• Take challenging courses in core academic subjects and stay on track to
complete state-required curriculum for college admission requirements.
• Does your college of choice require a foreign language requirement? If so, have
you met this requirement?

☐ Meet with your high school counselor to be certain you are on track for graduation.
• Arrange to make up and missing credits early in the school year.

☐ Consider taking more IB/AP courses. For an early start, check to see what colleges and universities accept IB/AP-courses as college credit!

☐ If needed, take the ACT and get the best score you possibly can!

Junior Year- June/July

- [ ] Register to take the June ACT! If you believe you are ready!

- [ ] Use the summer time to start a rough draft of a general scholarship essay. Type and save it to a jump drive for editing and printing to submit with scholarship applications starting this fall.

- [ ] Use the summer time to start researching for potential scholarships that you can apply for starting this fall! You can have a jump start to see what you will need to prepare to apply to these scholarships. Use our scholarship organization tool in our High School Advice + Tips section!

- [ ] Use this time to visit college campuses and talk to Financial Aid while there.

- [ ] Create a resume'
  • Look for our resume template in our High School Application section!

- [ ] If you plan to participate in sports in college, register with the National Collegiate
  Athletic Association (NCAA) Eligibility Center.

Senior Year- August

- [ ] Check out to see the deadline for the September ACT!

- [ ] Stay involved in school and community-based activities.

☐ Start asking teachers, counselors, and employers for recommendation letters to include within scholarship applications.
• Be sure to give your references a list of clubs, organizations, achievements, awards, Grade point average, etc (highlighting strong points) in order for them to write the best letter of recommendation for you.

☐ Senior Year- September

Check out to see the deadline for the September ACT!

☐ Start narrowing down the list of colleges being considered. If you are ready to start applying, then start applying to the top 3-5 college choices. Check out our tips for college applications in our High School Advice + Tips section!
• Talk to your College and Career Coordinator to see if application fees or fee waivers for your institutions are available.
• Request that your high school transcripts be sent to all institutions to which you are applying.

Check application deadlines for the colleges and scholarships to which you plan to apply.
• Some colleges require early submission of admission applications for priority consideration for merit or need-based scholarships.

Check the registration deadline for the October ACT!

Senior Year- October

- [ ] If needed, take the ACT on October!

- [ ] If you have not already done so, sign up for www.Fastweb.com & www.Collegeboard.org for the information and articles provided.

- [ ] Apply for the FAFSA for your school year at www.fafsa.gov. You will need a FAFSA ID. This will be used to sign your FAFSA.

- [ ] Continue to complete college applications – apply to at least three institutions:
  • Talk to your College and Career Coordinator to see, if application fees or fee waivers for your institution/s are available.
  • Request that your high school transcripts be set to all institutions to which you are applying.

- [ ] Apply for institutional scholarships and meet the deadlines for applications.

Senior Year- November

- [ ] If your college applications are not completed at this time, please continue to work on those and get them completed as soon as possible.

- [ ] Continue to apply for scholarships in time to meet application deadlines. Review and apply for national scholarships at www.fastweb.com and www.scholarships.com. Check out more information about keeping scholarships organized with our High School Advice + Tips section!

Senior Year- December

- [ ] Take the ACT in December (Only if you are trying to raise your score/s for a scholarship and/or if schools tell you that a higher score will mean more money in scholarship, etc).

- [ ] Continue to research and apply for local and private scholarships in time to meet application deadlines.

Senior Year- January/February

- [ ] Begin a comparison chart of the schools you get admitted to.

- [ ] Complete college financial aid applications. Due to FAFSA now being available in October. The FAFSA should be completed or close to completed by the end of Jan.

- [ ] Complete a Housing Contract (the preferred residence halls fill up quickly). Start saving for the deposit. Contact your potential school's financial aid office to see if they offer assistance for paying the college deposit as a First-Generation and Low-Income college student.

- [ ] Apply for private scholarships - check with the school counselor's office.Listen to announcements at school for scholarships and deadlines.

Senior Year- March/April

- [ ] Many scholarships will have deadlines during March.
- [ ] Compare the pros/cons for each college admitted to.
- [ ] Choose the college of your choice. Be sure to respond within the deadline. Just because they send you a letter does not mean you are in. The school is waiting on your response back. Check for further instructions on how to admit your position in the school in your acceptance letter either through snail mail or e-mail.
- [ ] Sign up for orientation at you chosen college. If you are attending out of state, try to book your airplane tickets in advance because they can be much cheaper if you book them earlier on!
- [ ] Arrange for campus housing if you plan to live in a residence hall.
- [ ] Financial aid and scholarship award letters will begin to arrive in April. Read aid award letters carefully and be sure to meet deadlines for accepting awards.
- [ ] Consult with the college to confirm that all necessary information has been submitted. Respond IMMEDIATELY to any requests for more information or additional documents!

Senior Year- May

- ☐ Graduation time!!!!
- ☐ Send your colleges your final transcript if needed.
- ☐ Send thank you notes to donors and organizations that award you with scholarships and/or who helped you during these challenging times!

Senior Year- June/July/August

- ☐ If you are attending college out of town, make sure your transportation is taken well care of! Buy the airplane tickets if needed.
- ☐ Keep in look out for roommate decisions, schools will begin to reach out about roommates soon!
  • If you feel more comfortable rooming with someone who is also a BIPOC, first-generation, low-income student, you can make this clear in your application! Having a roommate who does not understand your own struggles can be a very challenging space to live in.
- ☐ Ensure that your housing arrangements are established. Prepare to go to college!!!!!!

Resources: Shannon Shelton, shanon.shelton@kckps.org, Rising Senior Workshop