

A Checklist for the Senior Year

- Take the ACT at least once: you must register online at www.act.org and make sure you keep a record of the account user name and password to use for future registration and checking scores online. North Delta is a national test site for the December, February, and April tests as well as giving a weekday test in April. It is a good idea to register early for our test center dates; we tend to fill up quickly! You may register now for future dates.
- Determine which colleges/universities you are seriously considering: visit websites and campuses. North Delta will host our annual College Day program where admission representatives share information with our students in the fall semester. Seniors are allowed two college visit days but the student must inform teachers of the visit three days prior to it. A campus visit will allow you to tour the campus, see the dorm options, meet with department representatives, and just get a general feel for the campus.
- Apply for admission to colleges/universities on your short list: you may forfeit an application fee or two but it is better for you to have everything in order at each school you are seriously considering than waiting until the last minute and trying to get everything in. The majority of colleges/universities do not have paper applications, everything is submitted online. NWCC is an exception to this using both paper and online apps. All seniors will submit the free paper applications for admission to NWCC just in case you decide at the last minute to go to summer school.
- Know your college/university deadlines! This is very important especially for housing (if you plan to live on campus) and scholarship. Many housing and scholarship deadlines are before December 1. In order to apply for housing you must have applied for admission. Some colleges/universities require freshmen to live on campus so make sure you know if your school is one of them.
- Be aware of scholarship/financial aid opportunities: again, the college/university websites are the best resource for their awards. Most of them have various entering freshman awards as well as upperclassmen and departmental scholarships. Make sure you check to see what awards may be stacked to provide more money! Besides the college/university resources there are many websites that offer scholarship searches. You should never have to pay for these services so if they want to charge you simply close the site. One website that is free and offers thousands upon thousands of scholarships is www.fastweb.com. Check to see if you meet the criteria for the scholarship before you apply. Also, if you are required to write an essay you may be able to use one you have done before or write one that could be used multiple times.
- Submit the FAFSA: this government document, also completed and submitted online, determines eligibility for federal and state funds (grants, work-study, &

loans) based on your family's income. If you are applying for any scholarship you must complete and submit a FAFSA. The reason: if you are eligible for federal/state money then the college/university can use scholarship money for someone who isn't eligible. The FAFSA is available online around January 1 at www.fafsa.gov and it is helpful to have your tax return complete before you can finalize your FAFSA. If you usually file in April or later you may use an estimator based on your previous year's tax return form but you will have to have your taxes completed before you can know for certain what you are eligible for. Bottom line, you really need to prepare your taxes in the first few months of the new year for the past year. Keep your passwords and PIN filed away because you will have to resubmit a FAFSA every year if you receive scholarships or financial aid.

- Apply for MTAG, MESH, and HELP (Mississippi scholarship/financial aid programs): you do not have to submit a FAFSA for these programs. If you are eligible you may apply online at riseupms.edu. For eligible ND seniors, we will set aside some time in April to apply. MTAG and MESH have deadlines of September 15.
- Plan to attend orientation: colleges/universities do a thorough job of "orienting" you to college life at these programs. Usually held in late spring or early summer, you (and your parents) will receive valuable information and be able to register for your fall classes.
- Request your transcript for dual enrollment classes: if you are not attending Delta State as an entering freshman in the fall, you need to send a transcript request form to the DSU registrar after graduation requesting that your transcript be sent to the college/university you plan to attend in the fall.
- If you have any questions about your college admissions process do not hesitate to see me. I will be happy to assist you or your parents as you make these important decisions. Congratulations on being a senior! I hope your senior year will be as great as you expect it to be!

Susan Lewis
Guidance Counselor