**Herscher High School Senior Year Checklist**

**August – September (Start of Senior Year)**

* Review graduation requirements - [Herscher High School Curriculum Guide](https://www.hcusd2.org/vimages/shared/vnews/stories/546112d6db003/Curriculum%20Guide%20(2025-2026)%20-%20FinalKACC.pdf)
* Create/finalize your list of colleges, trade schools, or military options - [College Admissions Advice, Scholarships, & Online Discussion Forums - College Confidential](https://collegeconfidential.com/)
* Optional - Attend College Fair @ KCC 9/23/25 from 6:00pm – 7:30pm - [IACAC College Fair Calendar](https://iacac.knack.com/college-fairs#list/viewcollegefairdetails/6792a8e6f2de2f031e0e56b3/)
* Start college applications (many open August 1st) - [Apply to college with Common App | Your future starts here](https://www.commonapp.org/)
* Create a Parchment account or log in to request transcripts - [Herscher High School Transcript Request | Parchment](https://www.parchment.com/u/registration/10478/institution)

**October**

* Start FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) - typically opens October 1st- [Home | Federal Student Aid](https://studentaid.gov/)
* Attend FAFSA workshops (if needed) - [Financial Aid - Kankakee Community College](https://www.kcc.edu/tuition-and-aid/financial-aid/#financial-aid-workshops)
* Ask for letters of recommendation (if required by colleges) -[Senior Letter of Rec Info sheet.docx](https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.hcusd2.org%2Fvimages%2Fshared%2Fvnews%2Fstories%2F54297457a8c85%2FSenior%2520Letter%2520of%2520Rec%2520Info%2520sheet.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK)
* Finalize College Applications (many priority deadlines are early)
* Send official high school transcripts via Parchment to colleges/universities
* Order Cap/Gown - October 14 – Josten’s Cap and Gown Presentation during Advisory [HERSCHER HIGH SCHOOL HERSCHER, IL | Jostens](https://www.jostens.com/apps/store/customer/1075021/Herscher-High-School/)

**November – December**

* Keep checking your email (or applied school portals) for communication from colleges
* Monitor your financial aid account (StudentAid.gov) for FAFSA errors and updates
* Keep your grades strong - colleges do see senior year grades!

**January – February**

* Apply for local scholarships - [Scholarships - Community Foundation of Kankakee River Valley](https://www.cfkrv.org/scholarships/)
* Send 7th semester transcripts (if requested by colleges) via Parchment

**March – April**

* Visit colleges (admitted student days, campus tours) – Spring Break
* Make your final college decision (usually by May 1)
* Notify schools you won’t be attending

**May**

* Take AP exams (if applicable)
* Send final decision to your chosen college (submit deposit, housing forms, etc.)
* Complete your Senior Year Exit Survey – (Google Form)
* Request final transcripts via Parchment to your college