

College Preparation Checklist

Advice to high school students from college admissions offices, financial advisors, and sites including www.collegeboard.com and www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov .

Pre-High School

- ❑ Start saving for college if you haven't already. Look into college savings plans that your state may offer.
- ❑ Take classes that challenge you.
- ❑ Do your best in school. If you are having difficulty, don't give up—get help from a teacher, tutor, or mentor.
- ❑ Become involved in school or community-based extracurricular activities that enable you to explore your interests, meet new people, and learn new things.

High School

Every Year

- ❑ Continue to save for college.
- ❑ Take challenging classes in core academic subjects. Include at least 2 years of foreign language as well as some computer and fine arts classes in your course load.
- ❑ Stay involved in the extracurricular activities that interest you. Consider working or volunteering.
- ❑ Save copies of your report cards, awards, honors, and best work for an academic portfolio. Athletes, artists, and scholars should collect items such as game tapes, stats, awards, school papers, etc. to document their abilities.

9th Grade

- ❑ Take challenging core classes (English, math, history, science). Ask your teachers about the requirements for honors courses.
- ❑ Start planning for college and thinking about your career interests. Look online for college options and career inventories at Web sites such as www.collegeboard.com or www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov.

10th Grade

- ❑ Continue to take challenging core classes.
- ❑ Meet with your school counselor or mentor to discuss colleges and their requirements.
- ❑ Start a calendar with important dates and deadlines.
- ❑ Talk to adults about what they like and dislike in their jobs and about what kind of education is needed for each kind of job.
- ❑ Take the Preliminary SAT (PSAT) at school.
- ❑ Continue your college search online and visit college fairs in your area.
- ❑ Make a list of the colleges you would be interested in attending.
- ❑ Ask your teachers about the requirements for taking an AP or honors course. Your junior year more options are available in these areas.
- ❑ Plan to use your summer wisely: work, volunteer, do community service, or go on a missions trip. Do some summer reading (Teachers can make recommendations).



Office of Academic Affairs