

College Planning Checklist

Ninth Grade Year

- Enroll in the most challenging courses
- Learn how your GPA will be computed
- Study hard and do well in school. From this point on, grades will count toward your GPA and will appear on your transcript.
- Review your 8th grade EXPLORE® results with your counsel and teachers
- Take PSAT
- Review PSAT results; set-up MY College Quickstart
- Talk to counselors and teachers about Advanced Placement (AP) courses
- Get involved in extracurricular activities

Tenth Grade Year

- Enroll in AP courses
- Take the PLAN® test; review your results to improve on the ACT test
- Research possible colleges
- Create a portfolio with your awards, test scores, extracurricular activities, etc
- Become familiar with college entrance requirements

Eleventh Grade Year

- Continue taking as many challenging courses as you can
- Attend an ACT/SAT review session
- Take the ACT or SAT twice (once in the fall and once in the spring)

- Research admission criteria for your top colleges. Know where you stand in relation to those requirements and work toward changing what you can.
- Update your resume or portfolio
- Start attending college fairs in your school or area
- Begin working on your personal essays for applications, scholarships, etc
- E-mail colleges to request information about applications for financial aid, admissions requirements, and deadlines.
- Begin compiling list of people to write letters of recommendation
- Begin visiting college campuses

Twelfth Grade Year

- Continue to challenge yourself and take as many challenging courses as possible
- Take ACT or SAT in September, if necessary
- Keep a calendar with deadlines posted
- Apply for college admissions
- Keep up with scholarship bulletins throughout the year
- Attend a financial aid workshop
- Submit your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid)
- Avoid the senior slide. You are almost there!