

# College Planning Checklist



There are many steps that go into planning for college across the course of high school. Make your college planning process less stressful by staying organized and completing all the important tasks listed below during each year of high school.

## 9th Grade

Create a four-year study plan that includes all required courses.

Starting a plan early ensures you complete all college requirements before graduation.

Research potential career paths.

Having an idea of what you want to do after college will help shape your class, extracurricular, and college choices.

Make a list of potential areas of study in college.

Exploring areas of study early can help you choose activities and courses that will prepare you for college.

## 10th Grade

Consider taking the PSAT, PSAT 10, or PreACT.

Taking a practice version of your chosen standardized test can lead to a high score on the SAT or ACT.

Choose a few extracurriculars and commit to them.

Dedicating yourself to specific activities throughout high school shows colleges you possess passion and commitment.

Attend college-related events.

College fairs and other higher ed-related activities can help you figure out which schools to apply to.

## 11th Grade

PSAT registration deadline (through your school):

/ /

PSAT test date (October):

/ /

Take the PSAT.

The PSAT prepares you for the SAT (and ACT). A high score on this may qualify you for a National Merit Scholarship.

Enroll in AP and/or IB classes through your school.

Earning college credit in high school can give you a jumpstart on college requirements and is often a more cost-effective option.

Study for the SAT/ACT.

Many four-year colleges require SAT/ACT scores for admission. It's recommended that you take your first SAT/ACT by the spring of your junior year.

SAT/ACT registration deadline:

/ /

SAT/ACT test date:

/ /

Take the SAT or ACT.

## 11th Grade (continued)

Study for AP/IB exams.	<input type="checkbox"/>
AP/IB test registration:	/ /
AP/IB test date(s):	/ /
Take AP/IB test(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 12th Grade

Continue to enroll in AP/IB classes through your school.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit college campuses. A campus tour can help you decide whether that school is a good fit for you.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study for and retake the SAT or ACT. If you decide to retake the SAT/ACT, it's recommended that you do so before the winter of your senior year.	<input type="checkbox"/>
SAT/ACT registration deadline:	/ /
SAT/ACT test date:	/ /
Fill out and submit the FAFSA (starting October 1). Filing the FAFSA helps ensure you receive the aid you need for college. The earlier you file, the more money you're likely to get.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apply for scholarships and other financial aid awards throughout the year. Scholarships are a great way to fill in funding gaps that aren't covered by your federal student aid package.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prepare college application materials.	<input type="checkbox"/>
School application deadline(s):	/ / / / / / / /
Accept/reject college admission offers by May 1.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study for AP/IB exams.	<input type="checkbox"/>
AP/IB test registration:	/ /
AP/IB test date(s):	/ /
Take AP/IB test(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>