

COLLEGE PREPARATION CHECKLIST-For high school students

Refer to this checklist each year to ensure you are on track to create a competitive college application.



9 TH GRADE:

- ☐ Pick your class schedule wisely. See if you can enroll in advanced/honor classes
- ☐ Get involved. Participate in extra-curricular activities (sports, volunteer work, clubs)
- ☐ Explore. Participate in at least one activity that supports your academic interests

10TH GRADE:

- ☐ Enroll in tough courses you feel confident you can also do well in
- ☐ Begin preparing for ACT or SAT. Find a tutor if you need one
- ☐ Focus on your commitment to a few extra-curricular activities
- ☐ Get to know your teachers and school counselors
- ☐ Consider engaging your community outside of school. Are there any local, national, or international competitions or organizations you can be a part of?
- ☐ Start putting your resume together
- ☐ Research colleges and visit a few in the summer

11TH GRADE:

- ☐ Enroll in tough courses you feel confident you can also do well in (sign up for AP Classes or a dual credit course if available)
- ☐ Focus on academics this year and getting the best grades
- ☐ Study for all standardized tests
- ☐ Take the PSAT. Students who take the test their junior year can qualify for the National Merit Scholarship/Program
- ☐ Register and take SAT or ACT
- ☐ Decide which teachers/people you may want to write your letter of recommendation
- ☐ Take a deep dive with your extra-curricular activities. See what leadership roles you can take on and ways you can make an impact in those organizations
- ☐ Start applying for outside scholarships
- ☐ Start working on your college applications and essays during the summer

12TH GRADE:

- ☐ Enroll in tough courses you feel confident you can also do well in (sign up for AP Classes or a dual credit course if available)
- ☐ Have your parents or a college counselor review your application
- ☐ Finalize your college applications and submit them
- ☐ Finish all standardized tests and send test scores as required
- ☐ Attend college fairs
- ☐ Apply for scholarships
- ☐ Fill out financial aid profiles and apply for scholarships
- ☐ Make final campus visits
- ☐ Hear back from colleges and decide which one you want to attend
- ☐ Graduate
- ☐ Thank everyone who helped you!

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