

Freshman Year Checklist



Use this checklist as a guide to make the right decisions for high school and get on track for college.

- Meet with your Guidance Counselor:** Ensure you are enrolled in college prep courses. Make a diploma plan with your counselor.
- Visit college campuses.**
- Get to know your teachers.**
- Take tough classes.** Colleges are looking for honors or AP classes.
- Choose electives that will help you learn about your interests.**
- Participate in Academic Enrichment Programs**—Talk to your school counselor about available programs.
- Keep a folder of your accomplishments**
 - Awards and Honors
 - Resume: update each year
 - Community Service and Church Activities
 - Track all extracurricular school activities
 - Keep track of jobs both paid and volunteer: write a short description of the job
- Research Careers and Get a Reality Check:** Check out which careers coincide with your interest and lifestyle. Reference <https://texasrealitycheck.com>. Talk to adults to find out more about their careers and ask parents to help you find a mentor in your career field interest. Talk with your Guidance Counselor.
- Research and learn about paying for college.** Do not wait until your senior year. Most students receive some kind of financial aid to help pay for the cost of their education. With determination and financial aid assistance, you can make your educational dream come true.
- Work hard to create and keep a high GPA!** Make sure you are doing your homework!

Be serious about school and learning from the beginning.

Sophomore Year Checklist

Aim High to Stay Focused: Learn what you need to do now to build a strong educational foundation for college.

Make a Plan

Take the steps you need to get closer to that college degree.

- Meet with Guidance Counselor to make sure you are still on track.
- Be a Leader: Go for student council, class president, and leadership positions.
- Continue to take tough classes
- Update Resume
- Start Scholarship Research, <http://cafecollege.org/individual-scholarships/>
- Get a summer job, volunteer, or job shadow
- Sign up for college credit courses (Dual Credit) for your Junior year!
- Attend a college fair. Attending a college fair is an opportunity for you to speak with admissions officers from several colleges, ask questions, pick up materials, and start becoming more informed about the right college for you.

Find the Money

- Discover ways you can start saving and finding money for college.

Work hard to keep a high GPA!

Prepare for the Preliminary SAT (PSAT)

Here are some FREE resources you can use to study for the PSAT and SAT!

www.khanacademy.org

www.collegeboard.com



Junior Year Checklist

**Major Decisions
Are
on the Horizon!**

Plan Your Career: Now is a good time to retake the Reality Check. <https://texasrealitycheck.com>. You may also ask your school counselor about what career assessment tests are available to you.

Choose Potential Colleges: Attend college fairs and narrow down a list of potential colleges.

Test Preparation - Find out if your high school offers test review or practice workbooks. Free test preparation is available at www.collegeboard.com and www.actstudent.org. You will be required to take at least one standardized entrance exam in order to get into college.

Plan a Campus Visit.

- Make sure class is in session to give you the best idea of what life on campus is really like.
- Make the most of your time: sit in on a class, meet with a professor, see a dorm, eat in the cafeteria, or check out a game or performance.
- Bring a parent.

Scholarship Search: Start looking for scholarships.

- Do not wait until your senior year. Many scholarships have early deadlines.
- Look everywhere: Use online resources; ask your guidance counselor and teachers for assistance, ask your parents to find out if their employer offers scholarships; etc.
- Use the following Café College website: <http://cafecollege.org/individual-scholarships/>

Work hard to keep a high GPA!