

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.

TASKS

9th Grade

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

Starting a plan early will help make sure 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 in high school that will prepare you for college.

10th Grade

Study for the PSAT.

The PSAT will help prepare you to take the SAT and ACT, and it may also qualify you for a National Merit Scholarship.

PSAT registration deadline (through your school):

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PSAT test date (October):

/ /

Take the PSAT.

Research extracurricular activities of interest.

Extracurriculars help make you a well-rounded college applicant. These are important, even if you have strong grades and test scores.

Choose a few extracurriculars and commit to them.

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

11th Grade

Enroll in AP and/or dual-enrollment classes (through your school).

Obtaining college-level credit in high school will give you a jumpstart on college requirements, and it is often a cost-effective option.

Finalize a "top schools list."

Study for the SAT and/or ACT.

These are required entrance exams for many four-year colleges. It is recommended you take the SAT and/or ACT for the first time in the spring of your junior year.

SAT registration deadline (July - May):

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SAT test date (August - June):

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ACT registration deadline (August - June):

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ACT test date (September - July):

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TASKS

11th Grade (cont.)

Take the SAT and/or ACT.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study for AP exam(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>
AP test registration deadline (September - November):	/ /
AP test date(s) (May):	/ /
Take AP test(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>

12th Grade

Continue to enroll in AP and/or dual-enrollment classes (through your school).	<input type="checkbox"/>
Study for and retake the SAT or ACT. <i>If you decide to retake the SAT or ACT, it is recommended you do so before the winter of your senior year.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SAT/ACT registration deadline:	/ /
SAT/ACT test date:	/ /
Fill out and submit the FAFSA (starting October 1). <i>Filing your FAFSA is a crucial step in ensuring you receive the aid you need to afford the cost of college. The earlier you file, the more grant money you are likely to receive.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Apply for scholarships and other financial aid awards throughout the year. <i>Scholarships are a great way to fill in funding gaps that aren't covered by your federal student aid package. They can also reduce your need to take out loans.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prepare college application materials.	<input type="checkbox"/>
School application deadline(s):	/ / / / / / / / / /
Apply to all colleges and universities on your "top schools list" during the fall semester.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Visit/contact all schools that award acceptance.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accept/reject admission award letters.	<input type="checkbox"/>
School acceptance deadline:	/ /
AP test registration deadline (September - November):	/ /
AP test date(s) (May):	/ / / /
Take AP test(s).	<input type="checkbox"/>