

Plan Your Future

MAKE SURE YOU'RE ON TRACK WITH YOUR POST-SECONDARY COLLEGE OR CAREER PLANS WITH THIS HELPFUL CHECKLIST.

FRESHMEN YEAR: DISCOVER

**Who am I?
What do I like to do?
What am I good at?
What is important to me?**

- Practice asking questions face to face
- Learn and practice good time management skills
- Learn how to calculate GPA
- Become involved in school activities and organizations
- Explore your interests through volunteering
- Identify strengths, skills and interests
- Review credits, plan courses and register for next year
- Develop your 4-year high school plan
- Build a resume with school activities, volunteer work and other experiences
- Explore summer opportunities
- What would you like to accomplish over the next four years

SOPHOMORE YEAR: EXPLORE

Utilize self-assessment tools to research and explore academic and career options

- Try to get off to a great start academically
- Consider going to a college fair
- Begin discussions with family about plans after high school
- Take the Pre-ACT or Pre-SAT test
- Explore colleges and interests
- Research college costs, scholarships and other financial aid
- Review credits, plan courses and register for next year
- Learn about requirements for careers of interest
- Find a summer job that might be related to your career interests
- Start saving for college
- Talk to family and other adults about their careers
- Continue to explore career interests and colleges
- Consider college sponsored summer camps



JUNIOR YEAR: PLAN

Clarify and evaluate academic options and career goals

- Continue strong performance in classes
- Visit colleges during any fall breaks
- Consider taking the PSAT in October for those interested in qualifying for the National Merit Scholarship and as preparation for the SAT
- Take Practice ACT at your school in October
- Register for and take your ACT and/or SAT college admission tests.
- Research college websites/online resources
- Register for the classes that prospective colleges require and/or align with your career plans
- Schedule to meet with college representatives from schools of interest
- Consider taking the ASVAB test, even if unsure about military service
- College Athletes: register with NCAA Eligibility Center
- Visit colleges during any school breaks
- Prepare drafts of application essays using Common Application questions
- Continue extra-curricular activities, volunteer work, jobs
- Work on college essays and personal statements, if needed
- Build a list of favorite colleges
- If retaking ACT or SAT, look at future testing dates
- Refine the list of schools to which you wish to apply
- Start requesting letters of recommendation
- Consider job shadowing experiences



SENIOR YEAR: ACT

Take action on post-secondary plan and career goals including application for:

Scholarships / Financial Aid / Technical College / Community College / 4-Year College / Military / Job / Career

- Request letters of recommendation if needed
- Apply and send transcripts and test scores to chosen colleges
- November is deadline for military academy applications and some ROTC programs
- Investigate scholarship opportunities
- Make sure you are on track to graduate
- Learn about the financial aid process, and submit Financial Aid Application (FAFSA)
- College visits (to make final decisions)
- Thank the people who wrote your college recommendation letters and let them know the results
- Arrange for apprenticeships or job shadow experiences
- Get university/college housing requests in as soon as possible
- Commencement
- If considering trades, research local apprenticeship opportunities