



College Readiness Checklist





College Readiness Checklist



8th Grade:

- **Build strong academic habits:** Encourage time management, good study habits, and organizational skills.
- **Explore extracurricular interests:** Begin identifying areas of interest in sports, arts, or clubs that align with passions.
- **Start discussing high school courses:** Research and plan out courses that align with long-term academic goals (e.g., honors or AP classes).
- **Develop a reading habit:** Regular reading builds comprehension and writing skills.
- **Consider a summer program:** Explore enrichment opportunities to further develop interests and skills.

Freshman Year (9th Grade):

- **Discover interests and hobbies:** Start figuring out what you're passionate about through exploration.
- **Participate in clubs and activities:** Join clubs, sports, or activities that interest you and contribute to building your skills.
- **Keep strong academic performance:** Focus on achieving good grades as this sets the foundation for GPA.
- **Build relationships with teachers and counselors:** Establish a network of support for guidance throughout high school.
- **Start creating a resume:** Track your achievements and extracurricular involvement.





College Readiness Checklist



Sophomore Year (10th Grade):

- **Start researching colleges:** Begin exploring potential colleges and their admission requirements.
- **Assume leadership roles in activities:** Step up in clubs or organizations to start building leadership experience.
- **Explore summer enrichment programs:** Attend academic or extracurricular programs to enhance your resume.
- **Take PSAT/NMSQT:** Prepare for and take the PSAT to qualify for scholarships and get a sense of standardized testing.
- **Continue developing relationships with teachers:** Build rapport for future recommendation letters.





College Readiness Checklist



Junior Year (11th Grade):

1st Term ■

August - December

■ Start preparing for the SAT/ACT:

- Start focused preparation by taking practice tests and identifying weak areas.
- Register for spring SAT/ACT test dates.

■ Seek leadership roles:

- Aim to take on leadership positions in clubs, teams, or other extracurriculars.

■ Hire a college prep coach:

- Schedule a check-in to discuss college goals, coursework, and how to strengthen your academic profile.

■ Continue participating in extracurriculars

- Make sure you're staying involved in clubs, sports, or activities to keep building your resume.

■ Take college courses:

- Plan to take challenging courses (honors, AP) that align with your academic and college goals.

■ Research scholarships:

- Begin searching and applying for scholarships that match your academic achievements, extracurricular involvement, and financial needs.





College Readiness Checklist



Junior Year (11th Grade):

2nd Term ■
January - June

- Research colleges and build your college list:
 - Use tools like College Board, Niche, or college websites to explore schools that match your interests.
 - Narrow down preferences (size, location, programs, extracurriculars).

- Explore summer enrichment programs:
 - Research and apply for summer programs or internships related to your interests.

- Take the SAT or ACT:
 - By now, you should have prepared for the SAT/ACT, so take the test in the spring.
 - Consider retaking it later in the year if you want to improve your score.

- Plan college visits for the summer:
 - Research when schools offer tours and open houses, and start planning summer campus visits.
 - If visiting in person isn't feasible, schedule virtual tours or info sessions.

- Ask teachers for recommendation letters:
 - Before the school year ends, ask two teachers (preferably from junior year) if they'd be willing to write recommendation letters for you in the fall.





College Readiness Checklist



Junior Year (11th Grade):

2nd Term ■
January - June

■ Finalize summer plans:

- Enroll in summer programs, internships, or community service to enrich your experiences and skills

■ Visit college campuses:

- If possible, visit the colleges you're interested in over the summer to get a feel for the campus atmosphere and student life.
- Take notes and narrow down your list based on these visits.

■ Start working on your personal statement:

- Begin brainstorming and drafting personal essays for college applications, even if applications aren't due yet.

■ Sign up for the fall SAT/ACT:

- Register for fall testing dates if you want to improve your score from the spring.

■ Keep track of college application deadlines:

- Begin creating a spreadsheet or calendar with deadlines for schools and financial aid applications

■ Start building your application portfolio:

- Organize all your extracurricular activities, leadership roles, community service, and academic achievements.
- Revise your personal statement, and ask for feedback from teachers or counselors.

■ Begin to refine your final college list:

- After visits, research, and coach meetings, aim to have your top-choice schools finalized by December.





College Readiness Checklist



Senior Year (12th Grade):

- **Complete college applications:** Finalize and submit all college applications, ensuring deadlines are met.
- **Request letters of recommendation:** Ask teachers, counselors, or coaches for recommendation letters early.
- **Apply for scholarships and financial aid:** Complete the FAFSA and apply for scholarships.
- **Keep up academic performance:** Colleges may look at your senior-year grades, so continue performing well.
- **Finalize decision:** After receiving acceptance letters, make your college choice.

