

MAKE COLLEGE YOUR GOAL



Decide right now that college is a goal that you are going to achieve!

Reaching your college goal will require organization, planning and preparation throughout high school, not just your Senior year.

Take a look at the lists below for each year of high school. Place a check in the box to the left of each item if you have completed it or if you are working on it now. No matter your grade now, read through the items to get an idea of where you are at in the process.

9TH GRADE

10TH GRADE

- I have decided to at least explore the idea of going to college, even if I'm not sure right now.
- I have developed a 4-year high school schedule with my guidance counselor that follows a typical college preparatory plan, such as:
 - ★ 4 years of English
 - ★ 3-4 years of math
 - ★ 3 years of science
 - ★ 2-3 years of a foreign language
 - ★ 3 years of social studies
 - ★ 1 year of fine or performing arts
- I am working hard to keep my grades up so that I have more choices when it comes time to choose a college.
- I have talked to my parents about my goal to attend college.
- I have begun to think about what career I'd like to have after college.
- I have a savings account that I have begun to put money in to save for college.
- I am involved in an extracurricular activity that I really enjoy, such as sports, music, theater, community service club, etc.

- I have decided to go to college.
- I have met with my guidance counselor to make sure I am in the right college prep classes and on the right track for my junior and senior year.
- I am working hard to keep my grades up so that I have more choices when it comes time to choose a college.
- I have taken, or will take, the PSAT, even though it is not often taken until the junior year, because I understand it is good practice and it will indicate academic areas I need to work harder at.
- I have attended a college fair.
- I have conducted online research into at least one college.
- I have visited at least one college.
- I continue to put money in my college savings account.
- I am involved in an extracurricular activity that I really enjoy, such as sports, music, theater, community service club, etc.
- I have begun to consider what major I'd like to pursue in college.

See Reverse for 11th and 12th Grades

11TH GRADE

- I have met with my guidance counselor to make sure I am in the right college prep classes and on the right track for graduation.
- I have talked with my guidance counselor about possible AP classes as well as classes where I can earn college credit.
- I have taken, or will take, the PSAT in October to prepare for the spring SAT and/or ACT.
- I have completed a college information survey to help me determine what I am looking for in a college.
- I have attended a college fair.
- I have visited at least one college campus.
- I have researched several colleges through online college search websites.
- I have narrowed down my college major interests and know of several colleges that offer the major(s) that I might apply to.
- I am involved in my school and my community through extracurricular activities.
- I have attended a financial aid night.
- I have created an account with www.fafsa.ed.gov and...
 - Completed a family contribution calculator
 - Obtained a federal PIN number
- I have begun researching scholarship possibilities and know of several websites to use as resources.
- I have researched and completed at least one practice college essay.
- I am working very hard to keep my GPA high enough to match the admissions requirements for the majors I may be pursuing.
- I have talked with my parents about opening a checking account, if I don't already have one, in order to learn how to manage my finances.

12TH GRADE

- I have created a master calendar of deadlines for college applications, test registrations and dates, scholarship applications, housing, and financial deadlines.
- I have taken the SAT and/or ACT (preferably in the fall so that it can be taken again in the spring IF I feel I can improve my score.)
- I have met with my guidance counselor and know I am on track to graduate on time.
- I have visited all of the colleges I am interested in. If not possible, I've at least researched enough that I know their admissions requirements, deadlines, fees, etc.
- I have applied to the colleges of my choice.
- I have applied for at least one scholarship.
- I have requested letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, coaches, etc.
- I have submitted the FAFSA (after January 1, but as soon after as possible).
- I have received notification from my colleges, have compared financial aid packages, and have made my final decision.
- I have notified my colleges of my decision (acceptance and those I've declined).
- I have paid any fees or deposits required of the college I've chosen (such as housing).
- I have asked my school to send my final transcript to the college I've chosen.
- I have completed the FAFSA process, including making any corrections, and have completed student loan applications, as necessary.
- I have scheduled a physical with my doctor (if required by the college you'll be attending).

Congratulations.....You Did It!

You're on your way to college and ready to start a new and exciting phase of your life. Good Luck.

