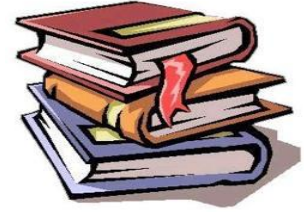


College Prep Checklist – 9th Grade

To best prepare for college, certain steps and procedures must be accomplished prior to enrollment. This is a chronological checklist designed to help assist in being well-organized and as ready as possible for college. See the College Prep Resources for additional information.

August through October

- _____ Focus on academics! Maintain at least a 3.0 GPA.
- _____ Visit high school counselor for appropriate freshman schedule.
- _____ List the top 6 desired colleges along with the top 4 desired majors.
- _____ Join various school- and community-based activities, clubs, and/or sports.
- _____ A social security number (SSN) is required. Contact local social security office. See *College Information: SSN*.
- _____ Create an interest and learning style inventory profile; update yearly. See *Career: Kuder Navigator*.
- _____ Consider taking a *concurrent credit* or *digital learning* course. See *College Information: SouthArk*.



November through January

- _____ Attend local college and career fairs in addition to any financial aid seminars.
- _____ Draft a resume including any special awards, honors, and certificates. See *College Information: Resume Builder*.
- _____ Review websites that help to prepare students and families for college expenses. See *Financial Aid FAQ*.
- _____ View virtual campus tours, student photos, and degree information on different college websites.

February through June

- _____ Stay up-to-date with all required shots and immunizations; retain a copy of shot records.
- _____ Finalize sophomore class schedule by **end of May**, making sure all classes align with graduation requirements.
- _____ Begin to collect personal milestones for an education portfolio.
- _____ Request college recommendation letters from teachers, coaches, and other mentors for college applications.
- _____ State test(s) must be passed at the end of grade level to advance to the next grade and/or to graduate.

Summer after Freshman Year

- _____ Having a summer job will help with saving for college.
- _____ Explore summer volunteer opportunities in the career area of interest.
- _____ Enroll in a summer school class if a required class was not passed during the year.
- _____ Take a college campus tour, if vacationing to a new city or town.
- _____ Review college exam study guides and websites with online tutorials for test prep review, skill building, and test-taking strategies. See *Testing: Test Prep*.
- _____ Register no later than **August** to take the *PSAT* in **October**. See *Testing: PSAT*.