

Liberty Common High School

Freshman/Sophomore College Planning Checklist



FALL

- What you want to accomplish in the next few years? **Set goals now.**
- Meet with Mrs. Campbell to discuss course choices and how they align with your goals. Make sure you know which courses majors or colleges require.
- Get involved! Join or lead a club or activity. Meaningful involvement will enrich your high school experience.
- Consider your options after high school graduation: **college (4-year and 2-year), military, gap year, volunteerism, work.** The more selective the college, the more thought should be given to your planning.
- Attend school events and college visits in the College Center to explore and gather information.
- Begin your research about how to obtain **financial aid and scholarships.** Discuss and plan with your parents about what you can and are willing to afford for college.
- Search college websites for what colleges require for admissions – they are not all the same.

SPRING

- Consider taking *concurrent enrollment courses* for college credit in high school.
- Register for junior year courses. Continue to challenge yourself or try a new elective.
- Thinking about playing sports in college? Check out NCAA eligibility requirements: www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Create a testing pathway that makes sense for you, both from a timing perspective and financial perspective. ACT and SAT scores may be required for admission to certain colleges. Even if you apply to test-optional colleges, test scores may be required for scholarships and need-based and merit awards. Each test offers free test questions.
 - ACT www.act.org
 - SAT www.collegeboard.com
- All sophomores take the PSAT 10 in April at high school
- Work hard and do your BEST in school!** Remember, your high school grades are part of your permanent record and will matter for college applications.
- Keep a log of all extra-curriculars, volunteer hours, and awards: sports, clubs, music, work, church, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc. This information will be useful when completing college applications.
- Take as many in-person and virtual college campus tours as you can. Learn more about the size, programs offered, academic support, student life, and more.
- Major and Career Exploration Assessments
 - <http://www.careeronestop.org/GetMyFuture/ExploreCareers/explorecareers.aspx>
 - <https://www.princetonreview.com/quiz/career-quiz>

SEARCH RESOURCES

www.collegexpress.com
www.bigfuture.collegeboard.org
<https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>
www.collegedata.com

www.unigo.com

www.cappex.com

Naviance –Supermatch

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

The most important step in searching for colleges is determining cost. The majority of scholarship money is received directly from the college. Do not let sticker shock deter you from considering a college. Out of state is not always more expensive. Know if your family qualifies for financial aid and ask important questions when visiting college about cost. There are many scholarships available; ask your college counselor about available scholarships.

- <https://studentaid.gov/understand-aid/eligibility> will help you determine eligibility for need-based aid
- <http://www.collegedata.com> college planning tools for determining college tuition, scholarships, need-based and merit awards
- [College Board Net Price Calculator](#) will help determine college affordability and the net price of a college: Sticker Price - Grants & Scholarships = Net Price
- [Free Application for Federal Student Aid \(FAFSA\)](#) Application for Financial Aid
- [Types of Financial Aid](#) - Loans, Grants, Scholarships, Work-Study

Sophomore Year Goals

1. Get meaningfully involved with a club or community activity.
2. Visit 1-2 college campuses in person.
3. Search and review 4 college websites and virtual tours.
4. Take the PSAT in April and evaluate your scores to plan for future testing.
5. Plan which courses you want to take for the next 2 years.
6. **Grades matter.** Try different courses to explore your interest and work hard each semester.

What I'm Doing or Proud of Now:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

College Planning Goals:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

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Liberty Common High School