



9th Grade Checklist

Fall–Winter

College Planning

- ☐ Attend college information events in your community (www.collegenights.org)
- ☐ Learn the high school courses required by colleges (<https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/plan-for-college/college-prep/thrive-in-high-school/high-school-classes-colleges-look-for>)
- ☐ Meet with your high school counselor for advice on your college plan
- ☐ Identify your interests and skills to help you focus on your goals

Extracurricular Activities

- ☐ Join a club or try out for a sports team
- ☐ Volunteer for something you find important

Spring

Academics

- ☐ Focus on your study habits and finish the school year strong
- ☐ Keep up your grades—colleges look at your grade point average (GPA)
- ☐ Set your 10th grade class schedule with your counselor to include honors or Advanced Placement (AP) classes
- ☐ Create your four-year academic plan with your counselor

Career Exploration

- ☐ Start searching for summer programs (e.g., academic, work, volunteer, travel)
- ☐ Spend a day at work with a family member, friend or community member and learn about their job
- ☐ Attend career fairs or career day at your school or in your community

College Exploration

- ☐ Research the different types of college options—career and technical education (CTE) institutions, two-year community colleges, and four-year colleges and universities
- ☐ Attend local college fairs in your area or at your school (www.nacacnet.org/nacac-college-fairs)
- ☐ Talk to current college students about their path to college and college life
- ☐ Try virtual campus tours (<https://campustours.com>, www.appily.com/virtual-college-tours, www.thecolleetour.com)

Summer

Summer Enrichment

- ☐ Participate in an enrichment program that expands your knowledge
- ☐ Get a job—many important skills are developed in work environments
- ☐ Volunteer with an organization you find interesting
- ☐ Apply for a service learning program
- ☐ Prepare for 10th grade year by doing summer reading
- ☐ Visit college campuses

Money Management

- ☐ Open a bank or credit union account and save money for college
- ☐ Take a financial education course online (www.fdic.gov/resources/consumers/money-smart/index.html)
- ☐ Talk to your parents or guardians about a college savings plan