

Freshman year checklist

Fall–Winter

College planning

- Learn the high school courses required by colleges
- Meet with your high school counselor for advice on your college plan
- Identify your interests, likes and dislikes—to help focus on your goals

Extracurricular activities

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

Spring

Academics

- Refocus your study habits and finish the year strong (<https://tinyurl.com/hs-studyskills>)
- Keep up your grades—colleges look at your grade point average (GPA)
- Set your sophomore 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

- Attend local college fairs in your area or at your school
- Talk to current college students about their path to college and college life
- Try virtual campus tours (<https://campustours.com>)

Summer

Prepare for summer

- 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 sophomore year by doing summer reading
- Visit college campuses

Money management

- Open a bank account and save money for college
- Take a financial education course online (www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/young.html)
- Talk to your parents or guardians about a college savings plan