



## High School College Check List

- Get excellent grades in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Take challenging classes in core academic subjects. Most colleges require 4 years of English, at least 3 years of social studies (history, civics, economics, etc.), 3 years of mathematics, and 3 years of science, and 2 years of a foreign language. Round out your course load with classes in computer science and the arts.
- Stay involved in school- or community-based activities that interest you or let you explore career interests. Consider volunteering at different agencies, programs and community organizations.
  
- Talk to your school counselor, teachers, and other mentors about college. Your counselor can answer questions about what classes to take in high school, how to sign up for standardized tests, and where to get money for college.
- Consider taking a practice Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT).
- Go to college fairs and college-preparation presentations by college representatives.
- Learn the differences between grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships at [www.college.gov](http://www.college.gov).
- Make a list of your awards, honors, paid or volunteer work, and extracurricular activities. Consider participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts, and science.
- In 11<sup>th</sup> grade, register for and take exams for college admission. The tests that many colleges require are the SAT Reasoning Test, the SAT Subject Tests, and the ACT. Check with the colleges you are interested in to see what tests they require.
- Visit your school's website for college/financial aid/scholarship information.
- Meet with your school counselor to make sure you are on track to graduate and fulfill college admission requirements.
- Senior year, apply to the colleges you have chosen. Prepare your applications carefully. Follow the instructions, and PAY CLOSE ATTENTION TO DEADLINES!
- For more in-depth high school college check lists please visit: <http://studentaid.ed.gov/students/publications/checklist/HighSchool.html>