

COLLEGE READINESS

College readiness refers to the set of skills, knowledge, and behaviors a high school student should have upon graduation and entering their freshmen year of college. It's all about the ability to find success while studying at an institute of higher learning.

HS FRESHMAN

- Meet with your school counselor to determine what classes you should take.
- Get involved in extracurricular and community service opportunities.
- Focus on getting good grades and developing good study habits.
- Take the Accuplacer test if not done so. Meet with your counselor to learn more.

HS JUNIOR

- Take the ASVAB to explore career interests.
- Take the ACT, PSAT, or SAT more than once.
- Attend college fairs.
- Start reviewing colleges.
- Consider job-shadowing.
- Explore scholarship opportunities.
- Set up your senior class schedule.
- Reach out to recommendation writers.
- Start working on college applications.
- Take available concurrent classes.
- Stay involved in student activities.
- Update your resume.
- Brainstorm college essay topics and create outlines.

HS SOPHOMORE

- Take a practice PSAT.
- Track your accomplishments.
- Learn about colleges.
- Add electives that align with your interests.
- Research your future career.
- Start your college search!
- Talk to your parents about paying for college.
- Draft your high school resume.

HS SENIOR

- Meet with your counselor to review academic progress.
- Take/retake the ACT/SAT, SAT subject tests, and AP Tests, if needed.
- Complete the FAFSA!!!
- Begin applying to college early.
- Complete all financial aid forms.
- Ask for letters of recommendation.
- Write College essays.
- Complete college applications
- Find and apply for local and national scholarships.
- Finish high school strong (avoid seniorities).

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THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND

SCHOLARSHIP TIPS

1. Create a list your unique traits.
2. Search for scholarships based on these traits.
3. Develop a prioritized list of scholarship opportunities.
4. Implement a scholarship schedule. (know your deadlines)
5. Don't rush your scholarship applications.
6. Track your scholarship applications.
7. Follow the directions to a Tee. (Submit all necessary documents and eligibility requirements.)
8. Always do the "optional" work. Go above and beyond!
9. Stick to the prompt.
 - Tell a story with your essay.
 - Don't repeat your resume.
 - Proofread and polish!
10. Don't wait until the last minute!!! Apply early.
11. Beware of scholarship scams.
12. Clean up your public social media.
13. Check your email spam folder.
14. Scholarships Are Not a One-Time Deal
 - Did you know you can keep applying for scholarships even once you're in college.

KEEP UP WITH

- Certificates/Awards
- Community Service Project Dates and Information
- Soft Skills/Leadership Trainings
- School Projects
- Flyers of Events You Participated In

WHAT ELSE?

1. Take classes that set you up for success.
2. Get involved in extracurricular activities (and keep track of them).
3. Get friendly with your guidance counselor.
4. Find people to mentor you.
5. Use your summers wisely. Consider volunteering, getting a job, traveling, etc.
6. Visit colleges. Keep separate folders of each college with any information given, questions, contact info, prices for dorms books, fees, student organizations, etc.
7. Research scholarships and financial aid. Look at local and national scholarships. Compare scholarships available between colleges.
8. Stay organized while you apply—and keep a cool head!