



☒ Check off items as you complete them.

Freshmen

- ☐ Meet with your school counselor to discuss college plans and career goals.
- ☐ Become aware of what courses and standardized tests are required for colleges that you would like to attend.
- ☐ Enroll in challenging classes, especially college preparatory courses, such as Algebra I, Geometry, Algebra II, college prep English, foreign language, and Biology. Consider enrolling in Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors courses, if available.
- ☐ Take a foreign language, in addition to English, History, Mathematics, and Science.
- ☐ Take electives that meet colleges' admission standards (such as visual and performing arts).
- ☐ Start a calendar with important standardized tests, admission, and financial aid dates and deadlines.
- ☐ Prepare for college entrance tests: Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) or the American College Testing (ACT) exam. Use prep books or software to help you practice.
- ☐ In the spring, talk to your counselor, teachers, and parents to plan your sophomore year.
- ☐ Explore summer opportunities such as jobs, internships, job shadowing, volunteer work, and summer programs.

Sophomores

- ☐ Meet with your school counselor to discuss college majors and career goals.
- ☐ Narrow down the list of colleges and universities you are interested in attending.
- ☐ Enroll in challenging classes, especially college preparatory courses, such as Geometry, Algebra II, Trigonometry, Pre-Calculus, and Chemistry. Consider enrolling in Advanced Placement (AP) and Honors courses, if available.
- ☐ Take a foreign language, in addition to English, History, Mathematics, and Science.
- ☐ Prepare for taking tests to fulfill high school graduation requirements (such as the Alabama High School Graduation Exam).
- ☐ Sign up and take the Preliminary Scholastic Assessment Test (PSAT), if available.
- ☐ Prepare for college entrance tests: Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) and/or the American College Testing (ACT) exam. Use prep books and software. Plan to take these tests at the beginning of your junior year. You will need to register a month before you can take the SAT or the ACT exam.
- ☐ Explore summer opportunities such as jobs, internships, job shadowing, volunteer work, and summer programs.
- ☐ Visit college Web sites and complete information request forms.
- ☐ If taking Advanced Placement (AP) classes, register to take exams in the spring. Watch for deadlines. Do well to receive credit or placement at most colleges.
- ☐ In the spring, talk to your counselor, teachers, and parents to plan your junior year.
- ☐ Write a résumé with the help of your parents, teachers, or counselors.

Always:

- Do your best in class, study hard, complete all assignments, and earn good grades (A's and B's).
- Develop and practice good attendance habits.
- Develop good study habits and organizational skills.
- Be involved in extracurricular activities, volunteer projects, and sports that you enjoy.
- Learn a foreign language.
- Read books on a summer reading list recommended by teachers. Review Mathematics and Science as well.
- Participate in summer enrichment programs.
- Think about career and occupational opportunities for your future.
- Keep a file of important documents and notes (copies of report cards, lists of awards and honors, lists of volunteer activities, paid work, etc.).
- Save money for your college education.
- Check into financial aid programs and scholarships and explore external scholarship opportunities, such as Army ROTC.
 - www.fafsa.ed.gov
 - www.ed.gov/finaid
 - www.fastweb.com
 - www.goarmy.com/rotc/scholarships.jsp