

College Checklist for Freshmen

Academics

- _____ Discuss the Standard, Advanced, and Distinguished Scholar graduation plans with the Guidance Counselor to see which may be appropriate for you.
- _____ Take the most challenging courses that are appropriate for you.
- _____ Get your year off to a great start by keeping yourself organized, seeing teachers for extra help as soon as any problems arise, and by realizing that grades earned in the freshman year really do matter to colleges and will remain on your final transcript.
- _____ Explore your extra-curricular interests. Consider joining a school club, sport, theatrical production, or school publication.
- _____ Strengthen your vocabulary by increasing your reading.
- _____ Know NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) requirements if you want to play sports in college.

Choosing a College

- _____ Browse through college literature or college search engines to get an idea of what kinds of schools may be of interest to you.
- _____ Attend the College Night for freshmen and sophomore students and parents during the spring semester.

Testing

- _____ Take the PLAN test in October. Though a practice test for the ACT, take the test seriously. Results can point to both areas of strength and to those that may need some attention.
- _____ Study for final exams early in December and May. Review and correct past tests and quizzes. Organize a “study group” and challenge each other with subject-specific trivia.

Summer

- _____ Use the summer to hone your artistic, athletic, and leadership skills. Make reading for pleasure a part of your daily routine.
- _____ Use family vacations as an opportunity to visit college campuses.