



9th Grade

COLLEGE PLANNING

If you're thinking about going to college, that's great! There's no better way to prepare yourself for a bright future than to continue your education.

Here are some things you can do this year to plan and prepare for college. Do the following and you will be on your way to achieving your college goals!



Work hard in your classes. To be ready for college, and to have an impressive high school record, work hard to get good grades in all of your classes.

Now that you're a freshman, everything "counts." Your freshman grades will be used to calculate your grade point average—and all of your freshman courses, grades, and credits will be on your transcript (an official copy of your high school record).



Make a four-year high school plan.

In order to be prepared for college level work, colleges recommend that students take the following courses in high school:

- 4 years of English
- 3-4 years of math (Algebra I & II, Geometry)
- 3-4 years of science
- 2-3 years of the same foreign language
- 3 years of social studies
- 1 year of fine or performing arts

To make a four-year high school plan, list the courses you intend to take each year of high school. If you want to go to college, try to include all of the above courses in your plan.



Be involved and develop your interests.

Colleges are looking for students who are active and involved in their school and community. Participate in school activities, and if you have a specific interest, talent, or passion, take time this year to develop it.



Think about what's important to you, and about what you want to study.

Do you want to go to a 2-year or a 4-year college? A college close to home? A college with a specific major? *Explore your college options at bigfuture.collegeboard.org.*

In college, you will choose one subject to study in depth. This will be your major. Start thinking about your interests, talents, and abilities in terms of possible majors.



Make informal college visits. To get a feel for what college is like, walk around a college campus, go to a sporting event, or eat in the Student Union. As you walk around campus, try to imagine yourself as a student there.



Get support. Talk to your family and your counselor. Let them know that you want to go to college, and ask them for their help and support.

Decide right now that college is a goal you're going to work toward. Keep your goal in mind as you go to class, do your homework, and study for tests. Know that going to college is a goal you can achieve!