



COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

9TH & 10TH GRADE

TERM 1

- **Create a four-year high school plan.**
 - Work with the College Guidance Counselor to ensure you are enrolled in appropriately rigorous courses at SCA.
- Use [Khan Academy](#) to prep for the PSAT 8/9 or PSAT NMSQT (10th graders).
- After Term 1 report cards are released, reflect on where you can improve and celebrate your academic success. GPA for college acceptance begins in 9th grade!
- Explore extracurricular activities. Where possible, pursue leadership positions.

TERM 2

- Learn to organize your email by creating folders and checking it daily.
- Begin building a resume to use for future college applications and employment.
- **Over Christmas Break:**
 - Talk to trusted adults about their career path & get advice!
 - Consider visiting colleges, especially if you are traveling for the holidays and there are universities nearby your travel location.

TERM 3

- Complete a career assessment to start brainstorming potential college majors.
- Begin researching colleges at [College Board](#). Request a meeting with your College Guidance Counselor to clarify your criteria for colleges.
- Take the TSIA 2.0 at ACC if you are interested in taking Summer or Fall dual credit courses.
- Explore summer opportunities. Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest and build your resume.

TERM 4

- Meet with the College Guidance Counselor to select your courses for next year.
- Register for Fall dual credit courses.
- Update your resume based on what you accomplished during the school year.
- **During the Summer:**
 - If you plan to work, put some of your earnings away in a college savings account. It's never too early to start saving for college.
 - Complete volunteer hours, an internship, extracurriculars, or a summer job.
 - Visit colleges around home or around your vacation spots, if applicable.



COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

11TH GRADE

TERM 1

- Use [Khan Academy](#) to prep for the SAT in October. This is your first college-reportable score!
- Attend local college fairs and visit with college representatives when they come to campus.

TERM 2

- Begin researching colleges at [College Board](#). Request a meeting with your College Guidance Counselor to clarify your criteria for colleges.
- Update your [resume](#). Get it reviewed by trusted adults and the College Guidance Counselor.
- **Over Christmas Break:**
 - Talk to trusted adults about their career paths & get advice!
 - Visit colleges around home or near your holiday travel locations.

TERM 3

- Use [Khan Academy](#) to prep for the SAT in April. With practice, most students improve on their second try!
- Take the TSIA 2.0 at ACC if you are interested in taking Summer or Fall dual credit courses.
- Research college scholarships: [SCA Scholarship Bank](#), [RaiseMe](#), [BigFuture](#)
- Plan your summer opportunities. Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.
- Distinguished diploma applicants: research and secure a summer internship.
- Attend the Spring Rising Senior College Meeting at SCA before Spring Break.
- **Spring Break:** Consider college visits, missions trips, working, or volunteering.

TERM 4

- Meet with the College Guidance Counselor to select your courses for next year and to review your college list to make sure it is balanced (reach, target, likely).
- Create your [Common App](#) account and begin filling it out, especially the honors and extracurriculars section. Draft your college essay using resources like [this](#).
- Register for the June SAT in April if you plan to take it another time.
- Request 2 letters of recommendation from your teachers before leaving for summer.
- Register for Fall dual credit courses in early May.
- Update your resume based on what you accomplished during the school year.
- **During the Summer:**
 - Work, shadow, volunteer
 - Attend summer camps or college programs
 - Create a calendar of scholarship deadlines
 - Visit colleges! Apps open on Aug 1st. Apply early to competitive schools/programs.



COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

12TH GRADE

AUG

- Apps open Aug 1st!
- Update Common App & ApplyTX Profiles.
- Complete dual credit registrations
- Professionalize social media accounts!

SEP

- Study for SAT if re-taking
- Narrow school list to top 3-5 and note deadlines
- Apply to schools & scholarships
- Visit schools & attend college fairs



OCT

- FAFSA opens Oct. 1
- Take the SAT
- Free App Week on ApplyTexas 13-19th
- Submit early decision/early action applications by 10/15



NOV

- NO PIE 'TIL YOU APPLY!
Enjoy Thanksgiving by making sure you've applied to 100% of your colleges before break.
- Schedule admission & scholarship interviews

DEC

- Stay in contact with admissions counselors about next steps
- Discuss college finances over Christmas break

JAN

- If filing, be sure your FAFSA is complete by Jan 15th
- Check app portals regularly & submit missing docs

FEB

- Apply for scholarships
- If admitted and living on campus, work on securing your housing right away
- Plan last-minute college visits

MAR

- Report all scholarship offers to the College Guidance Counselor
- Make final college visits, if needed
- Apply to scholarships

APR

- Make your college decision!
- Complete any enrollment needs
- Sign up for freshmen orientation
- Finalize your housing



MAY

- If applicable, request ACC, LETU, or CCU transcripts to be sent to colleges
- Request your final transcripts to be sent to your college. (College Guidance Counselor)
- Graduate!

SUMMER

- Attend freshman orientation
- If applicable, send AP test scores to your college
- Plan your move-in arrangements

RECOMMENDED READING

- The Search for Significance
- Finding My Vocation
- The Defining Decade