

9th Grade

Students

To Do:

- Review "Every Year in High School" on page 10 of this checklist.
- Talk to your guidance counselor or teachers about Advanced Placement courses. Find out what courses are available, whether you are eligible, and how to enroll in them.
- Start thinking about your career interests. At www.studentaid.ed.gov/myfsa you can register with MyFSA and research your career options using the Career Finder.
- Make a list of your awards, honors, paid and volunteer work, and extracurricular activities. Consider participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts, and science.

To Explore:

- Visit www.college.gov for some reasons to consider college and ways you can get help.

Parents

To Do:

- Review "Every Year in High School" on pages 10 and 11 of this checklist.
- Use the College Savings Calculator at www.studentaid.ed.gov/myfsa to determine how much you should be saving to meet college expenses and to find tips on maximizing your savings efforts.
- Make sure you are fully aware of the provisions of any college savings accounts you have opened for your child.

To Explore:

- Visit www.college.gov and click on "parents/family" to learn how to help your child go to college.
- Go to www.ed.gov/parents and click on "Parent Power" to access tips for remaining involved in your child's progress.

10th Grade

Students

To Do:

- Review "Every Year in High School" on page 10 of this checklist.
- Meet with your school counselor or mentor to discuss colleges and their requirements.
- Consider taking a practice Preliminary SAT/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT) or the PLAN exam.
- Plan to use your summer wisely: Work, volunteer, or take a summer course (away or at a local college).
- Go to career information events.
- Log on to your MyFSA account at www.studentaid.ed.gov/myfsa and try the Career Finder, or look at your career search results again if you used the Career Finder last year (see page 12). Then include the recommended majors as you use the College Matching Wizard on the site to find schools that might be a good fit with your interests and goals.

To Explore:

- Learn the differences between grants, loans, work-study, and scholarships at www.college.gov (click on "how to pay").

Parents

To Do:

- Review "Every Year in High School" on pages 10 and 11 of this checklist.
- Find out whether your child's school has college nights or financial aid nights. Plan to attend those events with your child.
- Help your child develop independence by encouraging him or her to take responsibility for balancing homework with any other activities or a part-time job.

To Explore:

- Learn about the standardized tests your child will take during high school: the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT and SAT Subject Tests (see www.collegeboard.com), and/or the PLAN exam and the ACT (see www.act.org).
- Get a brief overview of financial aid from *Do You Need Money for College* at www.studentaid.ed.gov/needmoney.