

Checklist for College Bound Students

What you do in high school directly impacts where you can go to college

9th Grade

Take **career interest** inventories and self-assessments:

- Interest Profiler <https://texascareercheck.com/> (Under Explore Careers)
- My TX Future - Career Quiz <https://www.mytexasfuture.org/interests-skills-quizzes/interests-quiz/>
- Career Interest Assessment <https://www.careeronestop.org/GetMyFuture/Toolkit/interest-assessment.aspx>
- O*Net Interest Profiler <https://www.mynextmove.org/explore/ip>
- Career Outlook <http://www.careeroutlook.us/>
- What Career is Right for Me <https://www.whatcareerisrightforme.com/career-aptitude-test.php>
- Several to choose from <https://www.monster.com/career-advice/article/best-free-career-assessment-tools>

Create a **portfolio** for college, scholarship and even employment applications

- Community Service (documentation: hours, photos, articles...)
- Résumé & Awards (education, employment & club involvement)
- Essays (save all copies) YOUR story in YOUR words
Create a generic essay that can be used for multiple scholarships →
- Recommendation Letters (try to get 2-3 each year in high school)
- Transcript w/ GPA, Class Rank & Test Scores
- Other Info (samples of work)
- Tracking Scholarships Spreadsheet

Generic Essay

- Introduction
- Life Purpose...future goals
- Family Background
- Obstacle/Challenge (you have overcome)
- Community Service & Leadership Experiences
- Conclusion (why you need/deserve this scholarship)

Volunteer (quality is better than quantity... make an impact)

Apply for **scholarships** (yes there are a few available for high school freshmen)

Check out my scholarship list (200+ pages) on the Members Only webpage at <https://www.scholarshipladyofcentraltexas.com/>

Build strong **relationships** with adults (teachers, counselors, administrators, coaches, club advisors...) Good resource for letter of recommendation

Keep **grades** up! Know your Grade Point Average (GPA) after each semester.

GPA begins with the grades you earn freshman year and will determine your class rank! It's one main thing 4-yr colleges look at, so start developing strong study skills now. Consider taking rigorous courses (PreAP, AVID, AP, DC, IB, TBI...)

Join **clubs** and organizations (to gain leadership experience and to discover what you like)

Take **tests**

PSAT 8/9 www.collegeboard.com

TSIA2 for Dual Credit (DC) courses <https://tsia2.accuplacer.org>

10th Grade

Explore and research various **careers that match your interest and skills**

<http://www.bls.gov/ooh/>

www.myfuture.com

<https://www.mynextmove.org/>

www.texascareercheck.com

<https://nepris.com/misc/careersearch>

www.texas-hotjobs.org (health careers)

<https://www.careeronestop.org/>

<https://www.myplan.com/careers/>

<http://www.educationplanner.org/students/career-planning/find-careers/career-clusters>

<https://www.onetonline.org/>

Update your **portfolio** for college, scholarship and employment applications (see 9th Grade for details)

Add copy of your driver's license and birth certificate

Volunteer (quality is better than quantity... make an impact)

Apply for **scholarships** (yes there are a few available for high school sophomores)

Check out my scholarship list (200+ pages) on the Members Only webpage at <https://www.scholarshipladyofcentraltexas.com/>

Build strong **relationships** with adults. Get 2-3 letters of recommendations each year

Keep your **grades** up (GPA) because it determines your class rank which is what 4-yr colleges look at.

Consider taking rigorous courses (PreAP, AVID, AP, DC, IB, TBI...)

Participate in **clubs/organizations** &/or get a job (to gain leadership experience and to discover your interests)

Attend **college fairs/visit colleges**

Take **tests**

ASVAB <http://official-asvab.com/>

PSAT 10 www.collegeboard.com

Prepare for SAT/ACT

TSIA2 for Dual Credit (DC) courses <https://tsia2.accuplacer.org>

11th Grade

<p>Create a College Research List for those who offer the program you want.</p> <p>https://apps.highered.texas.gov/resumes/ www.texashotjobs.org (health careers)</p> <p>www.collegedata.com www.cappex.com/colleges/majors</p> <p>https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search https://comptroller.texas.gov/programs/education/msp/</p> <p>www.niche.com www.collegexpress.com</p> <p>https://myfuture.com/college https://college-insight.org/spotlight</p> <p>www.txcrews.org https://www.collegesimply.com/</p> <p>https://www.princetonreview.com/college-search https://www.collegeconfidential.com/colleges/</p> <p>Steppingblocks by CIP Navigator *http://collegecost.ed.gov</p>
<p>Update your portfolio for college, scholarship and employment applications (see 9th Grade for details)</p>
<p>Volunteer (quality is better than quantity...make an impact)</p>
<p>Apply for scholarships (yes there are a some available for high school juniors)</p> <p>Check out my scholarship list (200+ pages) on the Members Only webpage at https://www.scholarshipladyofcentraltexas.com/</p>
<p>Build strong relationships with adults. Get 2-3 letters of recommendations each year</p>
<p>Keep your grades up (GPA) because it determines your class rank which is what colleges look at.</p> <p>Consider taking rigorous courses (AVID, AP, DC, IB, TBI...)</p>
<p>Run for club officer &/or obtain a job (to gain leadership experience and show passion)</p>
<p>Attend college fairs/visit colleges</p>
<p>Take tests ASVAB PSAT/NMSQT & SAT ACT TSIA2 to be TSI Complete</p> <p>http://official-asvab.com/ www.collegeboard.com www.actstudent.org https://tsia2.accuplacer.org</p>
<p>Summer – work on college admissions requirements (applications, essays, resume, ask for letters of rec...)</p>

12th Grade

Colleges have different admissions and financial deadlines so MEET ALL THEIR DEADLINES!

<p>Complete college applications through ApplyTexas.org &/or CommonApp.org</p> <p>Usually, the earliest you can submit an application is August 1st of your senior year</p>
<p>Complete the FAFSA/TASFA for financial aid (Opens Oct 1; first-come first-serve, so try to complete before Dec)</p> <p>Create FSA ID account first (wait 3-5 days) then complete FAFSA application https://studentaid.gov/</p> <p>TASFA is for undocumented students who are Texas residents</p>
<p>Complete CSS Profile if required by your college https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org/</p>
<p>Update your portfolio for college, scholarship and employment applications (see 9th Grade for details)</p> <p>Add copy of your FAFSA SAR</p>
<p>Volunteer (quality is better than quantity...make an impact)</p>
<p>Apply for scholarships (most of the local scholarship deadlines are from Feb through April)</p> <p>Check out my scholarship list (200+ pages) on the Members Only webpage at https://www.scholarshipladyofcentraltexas.com/</p>
<p>Build strong relationships with adults. Get 2-3 letters of recommendations each year</p>
<p>Keep your grades up (GPA) college look at how you finish your senior year</p> <p>Consider taking rigorous courses (AP, DC, IB, TBI...)</p>
<p>Run for club officer &/or obtain a job (to gain leadership experience)</p>
<p>Attend college fairs/visit colleges</p>
<p>Take tests ASVAB SAT ACT TSIA2 to be TSI Complete</p> <p>http://official-asvab.com/ www.collegeboard.com www.actstudent.org https://tsia2.accuplacer.org</p>
<p>Accept your chosen college & submit all requested documentation</p>
<p>Pay Housing Deposit</p>
<p>Attend orientation</p>