

# 9th Grade College Checklist

*College may seem a long way off, but it's not too early to start planning.*



## Freshman Year

- As soon as you can, meet with your counselor to begin talking about colleges, possible career goals, high school curriculum and extracurricular activities.
- Make sure you are enrolled in the appropriate college-preparatory or tech-prep courses.
- Take the most challenging courses offered at your high school.
- Get off to a good start with your grades. The grades you earn in ninth grade will be included in your final high school GPA and class rank.
- College might seem a long way off now, but grades really do count toward college admission and scholarships.
- Explore your interests and possible careers. Take advantage of Career Day opportunities.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities (both school and non-school-sponsored).
- Talk to your parents about planning for college expenses. Continue or begin a savings plan for college.
- Look at the college information available in your counselor's office and school and public libraries. Use the Internet to check out college Web sites.
- Tour a nearby college, if possible. Visit relatives or friends who live on or near a college campus. Check out the dorms, go to the library or student center, and get a feel for college life.
- Consider taking a world language.
- Pay attention to important announcements and opportunities via email.
- Make reading for pleasure a daily habit
- Take advantage of summer and remain productive in extracurricular activities.
- Begin researching and taking notes on colleges to gain knowledge to be used later.
- Practice writing in the first person. This skill is necessary when writing college essays. Keep a journal.



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<https://www.carlmonthhs.org/Counseling/College--Career/index.html>