

SOPHOMORES

Checklist for College Planning



- Become familiar with general college entrance requirements. Make note of required or recommended SAT/ACT scores, class ranking, level of course work, overall grade point average, etc. by looking at the websites of three colleges you know the names of.

- Explore your interests and possible career choices. Use the Department of Labor website www.mynextmove.org to explore how your personal interests and personality can lead to certain careers. Use this website to learn what the average salaries are of your chosen fields and what type of education is required.

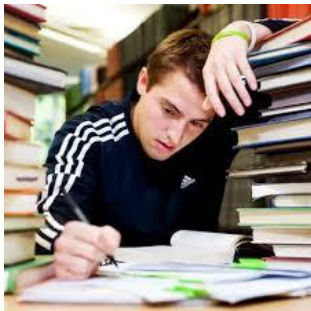
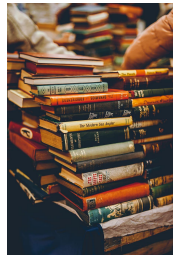
- Take advantage of area career day opportunities and career interest testing, such as at Collin College.

- Remember the importance of being a well-rounded individual. Work toward **leadership positions** in the activities that you like best. Become involved in community service, church service, missions, or other volunteer activities.

- Read, read, read. Read as many books as possible from comprehensive reading lists and learn about current affairs. **Extensive reading** should be ongoing throughout high school. When you apply to college and for scholarships, you will be expected to know how to use literature and current events to illustrate your points. That means that learning to **analyze literature and current events and apply them to real life** and your own personal life is highly valuable and can earn you money in the form of scholarships.

- Work continuously on your **writing skills**. Extensive writing should be ongoing throughout high school. Learn to organize your thoughts and practice so that you can write an essay at a moment's notice. Get so **familiar with the essay format** that it becomes as easy as making your bed. You will need this skill when applying for scholarships, when making presentations, and during college. The essay format is the most useful writing format you will learn while in high school.

- Work diligently to keep your grades up so you can have the highest GPA and class rank possible. These are worth money. Really. Think of an "A" as worth about \$3,000 in college money per year. Yes, you are worth FAR MORE than your grades. But you'll



need to show that to colleges, if you want to pay less than full price for tuition. Show them your great record of volunteer service or your talent in music or sports or the fact that you have devoted time during your high school years to something outside of yourself.

- ❑ Begin thinking about and discussing with your parents the type of college you would prefer (two-year or four-year, small or large, rural or urban, etc.)

- ❑ Visit at least one college, and preferably two this year. It doesn't matter which two. Just go. Get an idea of what colleges offer so that you can gain knowledge about what you are looking for. Certainly go on one of the college trips planned by GCA.



- ❑ If you are planning to attend a military academy, now is the time to start planning and getting information.

- ❑ Attend college fairs. This is a great way to receive materials as well as speak to college representatives about their school. Prestonwood Baptist Church generally offers a Christian college fair in September.



- ❑ Create and continue to maintain a college portfolio of any community service, awards, honors or recognition you have achieved throughout high school. Maintaining this material now will save you time later.

- ❑ Record your community service (volunteer) hours in FACTS Family Portal.

- ❑ Start a binder or folder for your own college planning. It should have several pockets. You might consider using a pocket folder with three-ring holes inside this binder. Keep all your notes and anything you need for college planning in this binder. Keep only the materials that truly interest you.