

# 9th Grade College Checklist

This is the year you need to start getting ready for college. The best way to prepare is to take college preparatory courses now.

- Take the most challenging courses** possible. They're worth it.
- Start thinking** about your dream career.
- Collect information** in a file.
- Talk to people** with interesting jobs and ask lots of questions.
- Go to career day** at your school or elsewhere.
- Check out TechPrep courses** – you can get college credit for classes you take in high school.
- Talk to your high school counselor** about creating a college admissions plan.
- Talk to your parents** about saving for college.
- Talk to your high school counselor** about financial aid, too.
- Get active in extracurricular activities** and volunteer for community service projects. More than school matters.
- Scope out summer enrichment programs** that focus on a particular subject, such as science or math.
- Grades are one of the top things** universities consider. Earn the best you can.

*Southeast Texas P-16 Council*

These checklists and much more information about going to college is available at the Texas college web site:

**CollegeForAllTexans.com**

*“Texas straight talk on going to college”*

The **Southeast Texas P-16 Council** prepared this brochure from material at the **CollegeForAllTexans.com** web site.

Please visit our web site for more information:

**www.setxP16.org**

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**Southeast  
Texas P-16  
Council**

**9th through 12th  
Grade  
College Checklists**

**CollegeForAllTexans.com**

# 10th Grade College Checklist

Applying for college is just two years away. Continue taking college preparatory courses to be ready for college-level work.

- Take the most challenging courses** you can this year.
- Discuss your future dreams** with your high school counselor at least once a semester.
- Explore your options for TechPrep** courses – you can get college credit for technical classes you take in high school.
- Plan to take the** Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test®/ National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT). It's the key to some scholarships.
- Read, read, read.** Work on your writing skills.
- Learn about current affairs.** Keep on top of world news.
- Keep your grades up.**
- Take part in summer enrichment programs** and special workshops that focus on a particular subject, such as science or math.
- Update your record of activities** and/or community service projects, including recent accomplishments and awards.
- Start planning the extracurricular** activities you want to be involved in next year.

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# 11th Grade College Checklist

It's only one more year until you begin the college application process. Keep making progress on being prepared.

- Seek out your high school counselor** for information and advice.
- If your TAKS 10th Grade College Readiness Indicator** shows you're not ready for college work, meet with your counselor to create a plan so that you'll be prepared when you graduate.
- Take the most challenging courses** possible and sign up for summer enrichment programs.
- Earn college credit in high school** by taking Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Dual or Concurrent Credit, and Tech-Prep courses.
- Take** the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test®/National Merit Scholarship Qualifying Test (PSAT/NMSQT), usually held in Oct..
- Expand your extracurricular activities.** Look for work or internships in fields that interest you.
- Attend college nights,** college fairs, and other informative events.
- Discuss where you want to go** to college with your parents.
- List ten schools you would like to attend** and request catalogs, admission requirements, applications, and financial aid information.
- Take the required** SAT I, SAT II, or ACT if you plan to attend a university.

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# 12th Grade College Checklist

It's only one more year until you begin the college application process. Keep making progress on being prepared.

- Review your class schedule** with your counselor to ensure you meet all college-preparatory requirements.
- Earn college credit in high school** by taking Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB), Dual or Concurrent Credit, and TechPrep courses.
- Attend college nights, college fairs,** and other informative events.
- Begin the college application** process in Sept.
- Submit admissions applications** no later than Dec.
- Call to verify** that the college or university received your materials.
- Check with your counselor** about scholarship opportunities and fill out every scholarship application possible.
- Get a Free Application** for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) from your counselor, at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov), or by phone at 1-800-4-FED-AID.
- Complete and submit the FAFSA** as soon as possible after Jan 1. The sooner you submit it, the better your chances for getting a good financial aid package.
- Write the college** you have chosen to tell them you will attend. Write to other colleges that have accepted you to tell them your decision so they can offer admission to another student.
- Finalize college-housing** arrangements, if you plan to live on campus.
- See an academic advisor** at university or college you will attend, then register early.
- Take part in summer orientation** programs for incoming freshman.