

Preparing for College Checklist

Checklist: Grade 6

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| | Think about the people you know and the jobs they do. Do their jobs sound interesting to you? |
| | Ask your parents and other adults what their jobs are like, what skills and training are needed, what they like and dislike about their careers. |
| | Visit your school or public library—or search the Web—to learn more about careers that interest you. |
| | Develop good study habits: Take clear notes, read all your assignments, work on assignments long before they are due, and study for all tests. |
| | Come to class prepared. |
| | Participate actively in classroom groups or activities, even when you don't feel like it. |
| | Read at least one book per month in addition to assigned reading. |

Checklist: Grade 7

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| | Keep a journal of your daily experiences. Use an old notebook, buy a journal from the book store, or use a computer (and save your work). What's important is that you start writing. |
| | Read newspapers and magazines or use the Web to learn about careers. |
| | Start thinking about your high school choices—ones which will prepare you for the career you are interested in. |
| | Volunteer in your community. |

Checklist: Grade 8

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| | Apply for a Social Security Number if you do not already have one. |
| | Talk to your older brothers or sisters or your friends' older brothers or sisters who are attending college, vocational or technical school, or another type of college; consider how you would feel about attending that type of school. If you do not know anyone who is in a school beyond high school, ask a teacher or counselor to help you contact students to talk to about college. |
| | Make every school year count; prepare academically for college. |
| | Think more about career possibilities and explore different occupations. |
| | Find out what courses you should take in high school that will help you to attend certain colleges or enter certain career fields. |
| | Study, work hard, and do your best to earn good grades. Your performance in high school can play an important part in gaining you admission to college. |
| | Save money now to help pay for school if you haven't already started. |

Continued . . .

“Opening Doors of Educational Opportunity”

Checklist: Grade 9

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| | Check in your school's counseling office for materials on aptitude tests or skills assessment. |
| | Meet and talk with your school counselor about yourself and your future. Take your parents with you. |
| | Ask your parents how much they can help pay for your future education. Establish a savings plan. Learn about financial aid. |
| | Find out about summer jobs and try to gain the skills you will need to get one. Look into volunteer activities that will expand your experience and skills. |

Visit the "Campaign for Early Awareness" Web page at
<http://www.nasfaa.org/EarlyAwareness.asp>
for additional information and resources.

en Español: <http://www.mapping-your-future.org/espanol/mhss/>
(note that the Spanish checklist is for students in grades 8 - 12)

This checklist was developed by the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) with additional material from Mapping Your Future (www.mapping-your-future.org).

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