








TIPS FOR HIGH SCHOOLERS

Too early to start thinking about college? No such thing.

This checklist is a great starting point for high school students who are exploring options after graduation.

-  **Make it known you want to attend college**
Teachers and counselors can help you take the necessary steps toward your college journey. Along with your family, they can become a big part of your support network.
-  **Take challenging classes**
Work together with your counselor to create a course schedule that will meet college admissions requirements and challenge you academically. Colleges will note your grades, but they also look at the difficulty level of your courses.
-  **Set some long-term goals**
Think about what you want to do after high school. Some questions you might ask yourself: How do I picture my life after high school? Is there a certain career field I like? Will I need a certain type of training for the career I want?
-  **Get good grades**
Strive for good grades and a high GPA. Don't be afraid to ask for help if you are struggling in a certain subject or class. The best preparation for college admissions tests is to work hard in your classes.
-  **Use your summers wisely**
Summer is an opportunity to explore careers you are interested in, try new things or gain work experience. Many schools offer free summer programs where students can live on campus and take classes to prepare for college.

If your family relies on you to work, Opportunity NOW can connect you to jobs, internships and other opportunities.
-  **Get involved**
Being involved in extracurricular activities shows colleges your interests outside of the classroom and lets them see a bit of your personality. This could include jobs, taking care of siblings/relatives, sports, organizations, clubs, music, and more.
-  **Explore colleges**
Spending time on college campuses and meeting with admissions recruiters at college fairs help you learn more about your college options. You'll have to consider the size of the school you want, how far away from home you are willing to go and what types of classes suit your needs.

COLLEGE AND YOU

If you're considering college, you want to find a school that will make you happy and set you up for success. Think about your strengths in a particular subject, class, sport or extracurricular activity, as well as areas you'd like to grow in, or things you know you dislike. As you start researching schools, use our college fit tool to help determine the right school for you.

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