

COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

FRESHMAN

- Plan a challenging program of classes to take.
 - The courses you take in high school show colleges what kind of goals you set for yourself. Are you signing up for advanced classes, honors sections, or accelerated sequences? Are you choosing electives that really stretch your mind and help you develop new abilities? Or are you doing just enough to get by? Colleges will be more impressed by respectable grades in challenging courses than by outstanding grades in easy ones.
 - Keep in mind the courses that colleges expect you to have completed for admission; your schedule should consist of at least 4 college preparatory classes per year, including:
 - 4 years of English
 - 4 years of math (through algebra II, trigonometry or higher)
 - 2-4 years of foreign language
 - 3-4 years of laboratory science
 - 2-4 years of history/social studies
 - 1 year of fine arts
 - 1 year of electives from the above list
- Create a file of important documents and notes.
 - Copies of report cards, lists of awards and honors, and lists of school and community activities in which you are involved, including both paid and volunteer work, and descriptions of what you do.
- Get involved with academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts, and science.
 - Keep in mind that learning doesn't happen solely in the classroom.
- Stay active in clubs, activities, and sports that you enjoy.
 - Colleges look at more than just your academic record for admission. It's important that you demonstrate your abilities outside of the classroom too.