

HIGH SCHOOL CHECKLISTS

Freshman Year Checklist

- _____ **Meet your high school counselor and make sure your high school course schedule is on the right track for preparing for college.**
- _____ **Be involved in your school and your community.** Begin keeping a list of your awards, honors, activities, volunteer work and paid work. You will be asked to list these on college applications as well as write essays reflecting on the experiences.
- _____ **Study and do well in school.** Your grades matter and will impact the amount of scholarship dollars you receive when you are ready to go to college.
- _____ **Think college. Begin to consider what you may want in a college.** Search websites and other resources for more information on colleges that peak your interest.
- _____ **Talk about college saving plans.** You and your family should continue (or start) to put extra dollars into a college fund. (See page 11 for more information on savings and how savings can affect financial aid.)
- _____ **Tax Benefits?** Learn about the tax benefits of cashing in savings bonds to pay for your child's education; search for "Publication 970" at www.irs.gov.
- _____ **How much does college cost?** Start reviewing tuition, fee, and housing costs to get an idea of the real cost of college.

Many Arkansas scholarships require students take Smart Core, the college and career ready set of courses that is the default curriculum for all Arkansas public high schools. Remember, the courses a student takes in the 9th grade set the stage for the remainder of their high school career.



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