



# 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 four college preparatory classes per year, including:
    - Four years of English
    - Four years of math (through algebra II, trigonometry or higher)
    - Two–four years of world language
    - Three–four years of laboratory science
    - Two–four years of history/social studies
    - One year of fine arts
    - One 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 only 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.