

# Freshman year checklist

## Fall–Winter

### College planning

- Learn the high school courses required by colleges
- Meet with your high school counselor for advice on your college plan
- Identify your interests, likes and dislikes—to help focus on your goals

### College planning

- Join a club or try out for a sports team
- Volunteer for something you find important

## Spring

### Academics

- Refocus your study habits and finish the year strong (<https://tinyurl.com/hs-studyskills>)
- Keep up your grades—colleges look at your grade point average (GPA)
- Set your sophomore class schedule with your counselor to include honors or Advanced Placement (AP) classes
- Create your four-year academic plan with your counselor

### Career exploration

- Start searching for summer programs (e.g., academic, work, volunteer, travel)
- Spend a day at work with a family member, friend, or community member and learn about their job
- Attend career fairs or career day at your school or in your community

### College exploration

- Attend local college fairs in your area or at your school
- Talk to current college students about their path to college and college life
- Try virtual campus tours (<https://campustours.com>)

## Summer

### Summer opportunities

- Participate in an enrichment program that expands your knowledge
- Get a job—many important skills are developed in work environments
- Volunteer with an organization you find interesting
- Apply for a service learning program (locally or abroad) and travel
- Prepare for sophomore year by doing summer reading
- Visit college campuses

### Money management

- Open a bank account and save money for college
- Take a financial education course online
- Talk to your parents or guardians about a college savings plan



The **Freshman Year Checklist** is part of the 2018-2019 *Opportunities Preparing for College Guide and Workbook*. This free college planning publication provides students and families with important information and tools to guide their pursuit of postsecondary education. These books are available in English and Spanish. Full PDFs of each *Opportunities* booklet can be downloaded at [www.ecmc.org/opportunities](http://www.ecmc.org/opportunities).