



College and Career Checklist: 11th Grade

All Year

Be mindful of POSTS, pictures, and comments on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snap Chat, and all other social media sites. Your digital footprint never goes away, and colleges may have access to some or all of what you post.

Continue earning volunteer COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS so you can qualify for college scholarships - check the Champions For Learning website for places you can volunteer.

- Visit your school counselor for approved sites or to get desired site approved prior to volunteering
- Obtain the community service form from your school counselor
- To qualify for the various levels [of Florida Bright Futures Scholarship](#) -
 - You need 30 Community Service Hours to qualify for the Florida Gold Seal Scholarship
 - 75 hours to qualify for the Florida Medallion Scholarship
 - 100 hours to qualify for the Florida Academic Scholarship

Continue researching different CAREER FIELDS that you find interesting:

- <http://mynextmove.org/explore/ip>
- www.careeronestop.org
- <https://www.floridashines.org/find-a-career/plan-your-future>
- <https://roadtripnation.com/>

Continue researching COLLEGE OPTIONS by taking virtual tours of Florida's colleges and universities. See [Florida Shines](#) for these campus tours. Find the average GPA of admitted freshmen at your favorite schools to see how you measure up.

Have regular discussions with your family on your plans for the future, the college selection process, testing requirements, and financial assistance as you learn about these things from Champions For Learning and your school counselor.

Quarters 1 and 2

___ 1. **Stay strong.** Colleges look for an upward trend in your grades, so this is your most important academic year. Remember: colleges see your grades from 9th, 10th, and 11th grades; by the time your 12th grade marks come in, you will have already applied to schools.

___ 2. **Attend back-to-school events.** Important information is shared in the beginning of the year, so listen to the announcements and be sure to attend:

- Parent/Student Open Houses
- College Night at Golden Gate High School
- Financial Aid Night at your high school

___ 3. **Ask for academic help.** When you apply to college, you will need to have letters of recommendation from teachers. Get in the habit of raising your hand, adding to discussions, offering to lead group projects, and asking your teachers for extra assistance. Get to know a couple of teachers that you really connect with, sign up for their clubs, help when they need it – this will really come in handy.

___ 4. **Register early for the SAT and the ACT.** These tests are given just a few times over the course of the year. Take both so you can choose from your strongest score. You need to register in advance.

- Register for the SAT: <https://collegereadiness.collegeboard.org/sat/register/dates-deadlines>
- Register for the ACT: <https://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html>
- Fee waivers available for students on free and reduced meals. Speak with your guidance counselor.
- If you have testing accommodations, be sure to [submit your request](#) seven weeks prior to the late registration deadline. Your school counselor can help you with this.

___ 5. **Develop an SAT and ACT study plan.** Check in with Champions For Learning staff or email Lab@championsforlearning.org to see if we'll be offering free spring SAT or ACT tutoring. Otherwise, use these online prep courses:

- MajorTests.com
- act.org
- collegeboard.org
- princetonreview.com
- number2.com
- <https://www.khanacademy.org/SAT>

___ 6. **Meet with your school counselor.** Ask the following questions and take notes on the answers:

- Can you review high school graduation requirements with me and show me how to be sure I'm on track to graduate on time?
- Do you know of any local or state scholarships I would qualify for?
- Where do you post information on college visits and planning programs?
- Do you have a list of places where I can volunteer to earn community service hours?

__ 7. **Stay organized by downloading a planner app**, such as Todoist or Calendly, on your phone.

__ 8. **Increase your extracurricular involvement!** Now that you're participating in clubs, sports, or music; it's time to step up in a more active leadership role.

Quarters 3 and 4

__ 9. **Keep your grades up!** Your GPA determines your class rank. Together, the GPA and class rank are important components of your college application.

__ 10. **Write and improve your resume.** Champions For Learning will teach you how to create a resume to highlight your extracurricular activities, paid or volunteer work, awards, and honors. Colleges will want to know about your leadership roles during high school, so keep striving to take on these duties.

__ 11. **Register for 12th grade classes.** Colleges look for students who take challenging classes. Consider taking additional courses in math and natural sciences and be sure to register for additional foreign language courses beyond the two sequential years of the same language. Computer and public speaking classes will also help you succeed in life.

__ 12. **Start your college essay (personal statement).** Champions For Learning will offer writing workshops to help you develop your topic. Attend these workshops, take the essay seriously, and you could have it all finished by the time senior year starts!

__ 13. **Polish up your summer plans:** So many opportunities to consider; just make your summer count.

- Summer job: If you haven't started yet, this might be a good summer to start saving money for college. Open a savings account.
- Take an [online class](#) just for enrichment. Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) are free online courses where you can learn anything from Japanese architecture to Mandarin to fashion design to Excel. Try [Coursera](#) or [Edx](#).
- FLVS: Register for a [Florida Virtual School](#) class to get ahead with extra courses or take a class that your school doesn't offer.
- Check out your favorite Florida college for summer offerings designed especially for high schoolers.
- Participate in an internship or a volunteer opportunity to gain real-world experience

__ 14. **If you want to improve your SAT or ACT score**, you'll want to retake those tests in the summer or early fall of your senior year. Get a fee waiver and register early.

- Register for tests:
 - SAT: <http://sat.collegeboard.com/register/sat-dates>
 - ACT: <http://www.actstudent.org/regist/dates.html>

Summer After 11th Grade

- ___ 15. **Prepare the documents you'll need to apply for financial aid for college:**
- Apply for a Social Security number if you do not already have one
 - Get a [Florida ID card](#) (can later be replaced by Driver's License) – you'll need to bring your Social Security card ONE of these: US birth certificate, valid US passport, consular report of birth abroad, certificate of naturalization, or certificate of citizenship.
- ___ 16. **Create a professional email account** for all your college correspondence. It's best to do this as first name.lastname@emailaddress
- ___ 17. **Create a binder** for all the information you receive from potential college visits and mailings. On the inside of the binder or in a spreadsheet, be sure to write down any passwords you create as you research schools.
- ___ 18. **Compile information on scholarship opportunities**
- Community Foundation of Collier County: <http://www.colliercountyscholarships.org/>
 - Florida Bright Futures Scholarship
Program: www.FloridaStudentFinancialAid.org
 - Other state scholarships
<https://www.floridastudentfinancialaidsg.org/SAPHome/SAPHome?url=home>
- ___ 19. **Prepare your preliminary college list.** Aim for 3 reach schools, 3 match schools, and 3 safety schools. For each school, list:
- Name
 - Location
 - Why it is a fit
 - ACT/SAT/GPA Needed
 - Application Deadline
 - Documents Needed (Essay? Recommendations?)

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