



COLLEGE: CHECKLIST

Welcome to the world of higher education! You worked hard to get to this point. Follow this year-by-year guide to set yourself up for success in the workforce.

FRESHMAN YEAR

- Meet with professors and advisors.** Get to know the faculty who will assist in your academic journey.
 - Waive FERPA. If you want your parents to be able to help you navigate college, then sign your school's Family Education Rights and Privacy Act waiver.
 - Create 4-year plan.** To graduate in four years, you typically need to take approximately 15 credit hours each fall and spring semester. Tip: The number of credits in which you are enrolled will directly affect the amount of financial aid received.
 - Engage with Career Services.** Take personality and career assessments.
 - Get involved in student activities and discover academic resources.** These experiences can lead to scholarships!
 - Fill out your FAFSA for next year.** Fill out as early as October 1 and as late as June 30, but keep in mind that federal money may be first come, first served.
 - Apply for scholarships available for current students.** There may be funds available to Continuing Students; ask your financial aid office, advisor, or faculty in your major department.
 - Consider summer courses at a local community college.** Over a span of four years, the additional credit hours could add up, saving you time and money.
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SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Apply for internship or other learning opportunities.** Complete first internship in field of choice (summer or during the school year) or consider study abroad options.
 - Start planning your career.** Set up meaningful job shadow and volunteer opportunities.
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Continue involvement in student activities.

Fill out your FAFSA for next year and apply for scholarships available for Current Students. Fill out as early as October 1 and keep in mind that federal money may be first come, first served. Ask your financial aid office, advisor, or faculty in your major department about available scholarships.

JUNIOR YEAR

Apply for internships. Complete second internship in field of choice (during summer or school year).

Strengthen leadership skills. Take on leadership responsibilities in student activities.

Build connections. Establish relationships with professors and staff who can serve as a reference.

Fill out your FAFSA for next year and apply for scholarships available for current students. Fill out as early as October 1 and keep in mind that federal money may be first come, first served. Ask your financial aid office, advisor, or faculty in your major department about available scholarships.

SENIOR YEAR

Polish résumé and cover letter.

Set up mock interviews.

Attend career fairs.

Be proactive about post-graduation. Interview for jobs in field of choice or apply to graduate school.

Develop a plan to repay loans. Consider options to decrease what you owe through loan forgiveness or debt consolidation.
