

A PLAN FOR COLLEGE\GRADES 8 THROUGH 11

GRADE 8

- ___ Apply for a Social Security Number if you do not already have one.
- ___ Talk to friends, family and counselors about possible careers you want when you finish school.
- ___ Work with school guidance counselors about courses you need in order to get into college or enter certain career fields.
- ___ Discuss your financial situation with your parents to see how they can assist you in paying for your education. Work together to establish a savings plan.
- ___ Get involved in extracurricular activities and enrichment programs.

GRADE 9

- ___ Make sure you know the courses that you should be taking in order to prepare for college.
- ___ Build a flexible schedule allowing for study time, extracurricular activities, and your other interests.
- ___ Start developing a resume by keeping a scrapbook of your accomplishments including articles about yourself.
- ___ Take your parents with you to talk to your counselor about your interests, post-secondary possibilities, and career information.
- ___ Find out about summer jobs and try to gain the skills you would need to obtain one. Look into volunteer activities that will expand your experience and skills.

GRADE 10

- ___ Visit the guidance department and explore college catalogs and other college materials including financial aid information.
- ___ Re-evaluate your high school course selection to make sure it meets college requirements.
- ___ Take the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) and/or the PLAN (Preliminary ACT) in October to prepare you for college entrance exams.
- ___ See your counselor to take interest inventories to discover which career(s) might be a match for you.
- ___ If pursuing athletics, check out NCAA requirements.

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FALL - August through December

- _____ Take the PSAT in October to practice taking college admissions tests and to establish eligibility for some scholarships.
- _____ Attend college fairs and sessions with college representatives who visit your high school.
- _____ Develop a list of possible post-secondary schools. Your counseling office or school library may have books and materials to help you. Send off for admissions applications from the schools that are on the top of your list.
- _____ Begin researching private sources for scholarships and write for applications. Request financial aid bulletins from all potential schools.

SPRING - January through May

- _____ Take the SAT/ACT. Check with your intended college(s) about which test they prefer.
- _____ Begin narrowing your choices for post-secondary schools and schedule campus visits.
- _____ Check with your counselor, librarian, members of community organizations or *Arkansas Outreach* for names and addresses of possible scholarship sources. Send for applications. Keep records of anyone you speak with concerning grants or scholarships.
- _____ Start developing portfolios, audition tapes, writing samples, or other evidence of talents required for college admission and/or for scholarships.
- _____ If you plan to play sports in college, write to college coaches at your target schools. Include a schedule of your athletic events for the upcoming year. Register with the NCAA Initial-Eligibility Clearinghouse.

Provided by *Student Outreach Services*
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www.asla.state.ar.us
800-443-6030