



HIGH SCHOOL TO COLLEGE BOOTCAMP

PLANNING AND PREP THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL

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9TH GRADE

- Starting your plan in the freshman year puts you ahead of the game!
- Look at high school graduation requirements. Take challenging classes. Get good grades!
- Consider starting a college savings plan
 - Start with a free online Financial Planning Calculator such as <http://www.savingforcollege.com/college-savings-calculator/>
 - College 529 Plans via a Certified Financial Planner from your bank or an investment firm such as Raymond James, Fidelity, and Merrill Lynch.
- What do you want to be when you grow up?
 - Think about your strengths, gifts, and talents. Ask family and friends what they think you would be good at as a career.
 - Online Career Assessments and/or Career Aptitude Tests may be helpful in finding a starting point.

9TH GRADE

- Get Involved
 - Extra curricular activities, clubs, sports, teams, etc.
- Keep track of achievements
 - Academic awards
 - Extra curricular activities hours (practices, rehearsals, events, include home practice time)
 - Volunteer hours (church, community, babysitting, etc.)
- Make Summer Count
 - Volunteer
 - Summer job
 - Enrichment program
 - Extra classes
 - Camp

9TH GRADE

- Non-college path plan
 - 22 Credits required for a regular Tennessee high school diploma
 - <https://www.tn.gov/education/topic/graduation-requirements>
 - Emphasis can include work experience, apprenticeships, and vocational programs.
 - Find vocational program listings online at Real Work Matters
<http://www.rwm.org/tennessee/>
 - Military recruiter

Talk to professionals working in your area of interest for advice. **Always** send a letter to them to thank them for their time and advice. Keep their name and contact information for reference later on.

9TH GRADE

- College prep plan
 - 22 Credits required for a regular Tennessee high school diploma
 - ACT or SAT required
 - Do well in harder classes such as honors level courses, Advanced Placement (AP) <https://apstudent.collegeboard.org/creditandplacement> , tech classes such as programming <https://www.idtech.com/courses/> , or College Level Examination Program (CLEP) <https://clep.collegeboard.org/> .

Talk to professionals working in your area of interest for advice. **Always** send a letter to them to thank them for their time and advice. Keep their name and contact information for reference later on.

10TH GRADE

- PSAT/ACT prep
 - Practice timed testing at home to get accustomed to working in a given timeframe and reduce test anxiety.
 - Motlow Community College offers ACT prep class for testing strategies. 1 in the Fall and 1 in the Spring. <http://www.mscc.edu/wdes/index.aspx#ACTPrep>
- Continue to next level in core courses
- Review College admission process
- Explore potential careers, their educational requirements, salaries, etc.
- Take on new roles in extra curricular activities-focus on 1 or 2

10TH GRADE

- READ, READ, READ!
 - Helps to prepare for tests
 - Well rounded student
 - Reading 3 books per year in your chosen profession = expert knowledge in 7 years!
- Practice writing skills
 - Don't rely on spell check to save you.
 - Effective communication is required whether you go to college or to work.
- Practice speaking skills (persuasive argument, eye contact, hand shakes)

11TH GRADE

- Key planning year
- Register to take/re-take ACT and or SAT, SAT subject tests, AP exams, CLEP exams. Mark dates on your calendar and STUDY!
 - Students will be required to have 2 forms of PHOTO identification to be admitted to testing. Plan ahead.
- Verify transcript and GPA with your umbrella program, home records, or transcript service. Correct any errors.
- Time to focus on a specific career/course path.
 - College, Vocational training, military, workforce.
 - Military Academy applications –Start now.

DUAL ENROLLEMENT

Dual Enrollment at Motlow State Community College

Dual Enrollment allows home schooled 11th and 12th grade students to earn college credits for courses taken through Motlow while still being enrolled in high school.

- Earn college credits with affordable tuition
- Save tuition dollars by utilizing dual enrollment grant
- Broaden opportunities for academic challenge and expanded course selection
- Transition seamlessly from high school to college
- Start early earning credit toward a college degree by completing common core curriculum that transfers easily to Tennessee's public colleges and universities
- Fall Semester-Apply between April and August. For Spring semester, apply in November.

<http://www.mscc.edu/dualjoint/>

- **TN Dual Enrollment Grant**

<https://www.tn.gov/collegepays/article/dual-enrollment-grant>

Up to \$500 for 1st two courses, \$300 for third, \$0 for fourth, up to \$100 per credit hour for 5th-8th course.

11TH GRADE

- Make College list based on your requirements
 - Organize info- make a file folder for each college and keep all correspondence for easier reference and to keep track of progress.
 - Consider- Size, location, academic programs, extra curricular programs, and cost.
 - Select at least 5 and include different types of schools- Public, private, in-state, out of state, top tier/Ivy league, community college, etc.
- Look for any specific requirements for programs you are interested in.
 - NCAA Division sports certification and curriculum requirements
 - Portfolio for arts or performance programs
- Seek out leadership roles in extra curricular activities. Colleges look for consistency and depth of commitment.

11TH GRADE

- College Visits
 - Collect info for college files. (Brochures, entrance requirements, tuition, course offerings, student activities, financial aid contacts, etc.)
 - Request a meeting with faculty in your area of interest during your visit.
 - Take notes!
 - Write down names and contact information for future reference. (Mail thank you notes to faculty for their time and advice.) * Mention their name in your application essay to set you apart in the application process!
- Talk with your family about your choices, concerns, ask for suggestions and advice. Discuss financial plan and needs.

11TH GRADE

- SPRING
 - Scholarship search- online sources such as <http://www.scholarshipsandgrants.us/>
<https://www.scholarships.com/>
College specific- see financial aid section on the college website.
 - Plan Senior year courses- don't wimp out now!
- Letters of Recommendation request
 - Think of 3 people that know you well. Ask them if they would be willing to write a letter in the Fall. (A heads up and time to ask another person if they decline)
 - Summer job/Internships- experience matters

11TH GRADE

- SUMMER
- Start work on application essays - Choose your prompt:
<https://www.collegeessayadvisors.com/portfolio-items/2017-18-common-application-essay-prompts-a-guide/>
 - Write a rough draft
 - Ask a teacher to proofread
 - Make revisions and proofread again, repeat as necessary.
 - Final draft.
 - Do not cut and paste the same essay to all colleges. It will be obvious.
- If applying for an early decision, check deadline. They are earlier than regular application deadlines.

12TH GRADE

Busy year!
Keep a
calendar/planner to
help stay on track.

Watch your
deadlines

Don't procrastinate

12TH GRADE

August 1st

Apply for TN Promise

www.tnpromise.gov

October 1st

Complete FAFSA

www.fafsa.ed.gov

December

Complete
College
Applications

12TH GRADE

Request Transcripts

Must be sent directly to college admissions office.

Have college admissions address ready when requesting transcript.

May be a fee.

SPRING

Acceptance Letters usually in March/April.

Compare financial aid packages and make final selection of college.

Notify all admissions officers of acceptance or withdrawal of application by May 1st.

College Test Scores

Must be sent directly to colleges.

College codes are entered when registering for ACT/SAT.

Up to four for free.

Include any AP, CLEP, or Dual Enrollment.

Complete enrollment documents.

Send deposit as required.

Letters of Recommendation

Follow up on requests.

Provide accomplishments, goals, and ambitions to help writer.

Provide pre-addressed, stamped envelopes to writers to send directly to college admissions offices.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Questions?