



# College and Career Planning Checklist—9th-Grade Tasks

Keep track of key steps to take during each grade of high school to help you plan for college and career. Find a digital checklist at [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist).

## First Semester

<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your PSAT 8/9 scores	If your school offers the PSAT 8/9, you may take it either in the fall or the spring. Your score report includes detailed information about how your PSAT 8/9 scores relate to specific academic skills and provide customized feedback on how to improve in these subject areas. This can help you choose high school courses, show you which AP® classes may be a good match for you, and get you started thinking about college or career plans.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Talk to your school counselor	Connect with your school counselor. They're there to help you and can offer valuable advice on college preparation and financial aid as you progress through high school.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Explore extracurricular activities	Get involved in extracurricular activities, school clubs, and community service. Participation in these activities can enhance your college application and scholarship opportunities.

## Second Semester

<input type="checkbox"/>	Take the career quiz	It might feel early to start thinking about a career path, but now is a great time to start! Take an easy, 15-minute quiz to get matched with careers based on your likes and dislikes at <a href="https://bigfuture.org/careerquiz">bigfuture.org/careerquiz</a> .
<input type="checkbox"/>	Decide which AP courses to take next year	It's time to start planning for 10th grade. You'll work with your counselor, teachers, and/or parents to select courses. Be sure to look at which AP courses you might be able to take. AP isn't just for juniors and seniors. In fact, some of the most popular courses are often taken by 9th and 10th graders. Check out the most popular AP courses for younger students.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Review your GPA	Now that you've completed your first semester, review your grade point average. This is an important factor most colleges will look at when you apply to college.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Stay motivated over the summer	Summer is a great time to explore interests and learn new skills—and colleges look for students who pursue meaningful summer activities. Find out ways you can stay motivated this summer.

\*Complete checklist can be found at [bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/9th-grade](https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/checklist/9th-grade)