



11TH GRADE COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

Take advantage of all of the opportunities offered as you continue to move through high school and consistently meet with your school representative to ensure your goals are met.

Use this checklist to help get prepared. As you cross off tasks on your list, Our Dakota Dreams will be by your side every step of the way.

FALL SEMESTER:

- Start your year off right — Talk with your school representative about your options and plans.
- Inquire about test dates for the PSAT, ACT, and/or SAT — You will need to register up to six weeks ahead of time.
 - Find **ACT** and **SAT** test dates and register up to six weeks ahead!
 - Explore **ACT prep** and/or **SAT prep** courses or investigate self-guided study plans.
- Take the **PSAT** in October. A high score on the PSAT could qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Attend **college fairs** to learn as much as you can about the colleges that interest you.
- Begin planning college visits — fall and winter break are good times to go!
- Sign up for extracurricular activities to gain new skills, make friends, and boost your resume for scholarship and college applications.
- Sign up for spring courses with your eyes on the prize — college and money to pay for it! A tougher course load may pay off with scholarships and may get you a better chance at admittance to the college of your choice.
 - If you are aiming to qualify for the **South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship**, make sure you are taking the right coursework.
 - Consider taking some **dual credit classes** in the spring semester to begin to earn college credits.
 - Consider taking a **College Readiness Course** in the spring semester to gain more confidence in your math abilities.

SPRING SEMESTER:

- ❑ Sign up for the ACT and/or SAT, if you haven't already.
- ❑ Take the ACT in February.
- ❑ Attend **college fairs** to learn as much as you can about the college(s) of your interest.
- ❑ Develop your senior schedule and organize your individual graduation plan. Make sure you're on track by reviewing your high school curriculum requirements. Talk to a school representative if you have questions.
 - ❑ If you are aiming to qualify for the **South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship**, make sure you are taking the right coursework.
 - ❑ Consider taking some **dual credit classes** in your senior year to begin to earn college credits.
- ❑ Consider taking a **College Readiness Course** your senior year to gain more confidence in your math abilities.
- ❑ Plan more campus visits for spring break — Check to see if any colleges offer an overnight visit. These can help you get a really good feel for the school.
- ❑ Work hard in your state assessments — Your assessment scores may come in handy with college admissions!
- ❑ Participate in South Dakota's Week of Work to explore, experience, and engage in work-based learning opportunities!
- ❑ Decide if you should take Advanced Placement exams in May — Talk it through with your representative.
- ❑ Think about lining up a summer job or internship.
- ❑ **Contact SD Department of Labor & Regulation** and ask about the Work Experience program through the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA). If qualified, you could be eligible for a paid internship while building your resume, sdjobs.org.

SUMMER:

- ❑ Take the ACT and/or SAT.
- ❑ Begin the college application process!

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR:

- ❑ Organize your personal learning plan — Work with your representative to meet all your goals.
- ❑ Keep exploring your career interests and related college programs.
- ❑ Attend open houses and learn as much as you can about colleges you are interested in.
- ❑ Visit with admissions representatives who come to your high school.
- ❑ Write a resume — Your teachers and representative can help!
- ❑ Familiarize yourself with college application requirements – when applications are due, if they require essays, or recommendations? Create a strategy.
- ❑ Start investigating private and public sources for financial aid — Take note of scholarship deadlines and plan ahead.
- ❑ Watch the **Paying for College SD** video series and invite your parents to do the same.