



11TH GRADE COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

TAKE ACTION

Explore Colleges & Programs

- Meet with your school counselor to discuss plans after high school.
- Attend [College Fairs](#) and career exploration events.
- [Visit Universities and Technical Colleges.](#)
- Meet with [Admissions Representatives.](#)
- [Explore Academic Programs](#) that align with your interests and goals.

Prepare for College Admission & Scholarships

- [Take the ACT](#) during the statewide spring administration.
Many colleges and universities have test-optional admission policies; however, ACT scores are still be helpful for scholarships, course placement, and other opportunities.
- Use free [ACT Preparation Resources](#), including [Methodize ACT Prep](#) available to all South Dakota students through SDMyLife.
- Consider [Taking the PSAT](#) in October. A high score could qualify you for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Explore [Math Pathways Advising](#) to understand which math courses align with your future degree and career goals.
- Learn about [Fast Track Admission](#). Eligible students qualify for simplified admission to South Dakota public universities through the High School Dual Enrollment application process.

Earn College Credit While in High School

- Explore [High School Dual Enrollment](#) opportunities at South Dakota universities and technical colleges and learn how these courses can help you earn college credit, explore majors, and prepare for your future.
- Work with your school counselor to identify dual enrollment courses and [Degree Pathways](#) that align with your educational and career goals.
- Complete your High School Dual Enrollment application for the upcoming term if you wish to participate.

11TH GRADE COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST – CONTINUED

Important Dual Enrollment Registration Dates

Students who plan to take dual enrollment courses during their junior year should be aware of these registration opening dates:

- **Fall courses:** Registration opens April 1
 - **Spring courses:** Registration opens November 1
 - **Summer courses:** Registration opens March 1
- If pursuing the [Advanced Honors Endorsement](#), confirm with your school counselor that you are on track to meet all endorsement requirements.
 - Participate in [Fast Track Admission](#) by selecting the South Dakota public universities where you would like to be admitted directly within the dual enrollment application.
 - Explore college-readiness options that can help you earn college credit while receiving additional academic support, such as:
 - [Year-Long College Algebra](#)
 - [Year-Long College English](#)

Gain Real-World Experience

- Use the [Dakota Dreams Events Calendar](#) to discover career camps, leadership programs, and enrichment opportunities.
- Consider:
 - Summer employment
 - Internships
 - Job shadowing
 - Apprenticeships

Prepare Financially

- Watch the [Paying for College Video Series](#).
- Get an estimate of how much federal student aid you may be eligible to receive through the [Federal Student Aid Estimator](#).
- Create a [Scholarship Tracking Spreadsheet](#).
- Begin searching the [Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board](#).
- Review [South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship](#) requirements to ensure you remain on track for eligibility.
- Learn about [South Dakota Scholarships](#) including “The Big Five”
- Discuss [College Costs](#) and [Financial Aid Options](#) with your family.