



9TH GRADE COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

DISCOVER YOUR OPTIONS

Explore Careers & Colleges

- Complete a career interest assessment through [SDMyLife](#).

Every South Dakota student in grades 6–12 has access to SDMyLife, a free career and college planning tool. Contact your school counselor if you need help accessing your account.

- [Research Careers](#) that match your interests.
- Learn about the education, training, and skills needed for careers that interest you.
- Explore South Dakota public universities and technical colleges through [Our Dakota Dreams](#).
- Learn about [Academic Programs](#) that connect to your interests and goals.
- Use the [Dakota Dreams Events Calendar](#) to discover career camps, leadership programs, and enrichment opportunities.

Build Your High School Plan

- Meet with your school counselor.
- Develop a [Four-Year High School Course Plan](#).
- Review [South Dakota Graduation Requirements](#).
- Review [South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship](#) requirements and learn how they can also support eligibility for the [Advanced Honors Endorsement](#).
- Review [South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship](#) requirements.
- Explore [Math Pathways Advising](#) to understand which courses support your future degree and career goals.
- Consider academic and Career and Technical Education (CTE) coursework that aligns with your interests.

9TH GRADE COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST – CONTINUED

Learn About College Credit Opportunities

- Learn about [High School Dual Enrollment](#) opportunities and the differences between:
 - High School Dual Credit
 - Concurrent Credit
 - Non-Degree Seeking
 - Advanced Placement (AP)
- Explore how students can earn college credit while still in high school.
- Learn how college credit opportunities can support future educational and career goals.

Get Involved

- Participate in activities, clubs, sports, fine arts, or leadership opportunities.
- Use the [Dakota Dreams Events Calendar](#) to discover career camps, leadership programs, and enrichment opportunities.
- Learn how [Career Ready SD](#) can help students explore careers through real-world experiences and connections with local employers.
- Volunteer in your community to explore interests and build experience.

Learn About Paying for College

- Watch the [Paying for College Video Series](#).
- Explore the [Statewide Scholarship Bulletin Board](#).
- Learn about [Financial Aid](#), including scholarships, grants, work-study, and student loans.
- Talk with your family about ways to prepare financially for college.