



MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST

EXPLORE YOUR INTERESTS

Explore Careers

- Use [SDMyLife](#) to complete career interest assessments.

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.

- Learn about South Dakota's [Career Clusters](#) and in-demand careers.
- Discuss your interests and future goals with family members, teachers, and your school counselor.

Explore Education Options

- Learn about:

- [Technical Colleges](#)
- [Universities](#)
- [Apprenticeships](#)
- [Military Pathways](#)

- Understand that different careers require different levels of education and training.
- Explore South Dakota public universities and technical colleges through [Our Dakota Dreams](#).

MIDDLE SCHOOL COLLEGE PREP CHECKLIST – CONTINUED

Prepare for High School

- Learn [South Dakota Graduation Requirements](#).
- Understand how the courses you take in high school can support your future career goals and open doors to opportunities such as the [South Dakota Opportunity Scholarship](#) and the [Advanced Honors Endorsement](#).
- Explore [Math Pathways Advising](#) to learn how math connects to careers and future goals.
- Explore Career and Technical Education (CTE) opportunities available through your school.
- Develop strong study habits and time-management skills.

Get Involved

- Participate in extracurricular activities, clubs, sports, fine arts, or leadership opportunities.
- Volunteer in your community and explore opportunities to help others.
- Attend camps, leadership programs, and enrichment opportunities. Find opportunities on the [Dakota Dreams Events Calendar](#).

Learn About Paying for College

- Watch the [Paying for College Video Series](#) with your family.
- Start learning about [Scholarships](#) and [Financial Aid](#).
- Begin [Saving](#) for future education expenses if possible.
- Learn that different education pathways may have different costs and funding opportunities.