
COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

FRESHMAN YEAR

GRADE 9

- It's normal to feel shy as you transition to high school, but if you have any questions, ask friends, a teacher or a trusted advisor.
- Try new classes and extracurricular activities.
- Explore your interests!
- Develop good study habits.
College admission offices will evaluate your grades from ALL four years.
- Discuss your options after high school with your counselor.
- Plan to take challenging and advanced level courses.
- Start a brag sheet: a list of activities, achievements, awards, and other notable accomplishments.
- Search for part-time or seasonal jobs and volunteer experiences, especially for the summer after freshman year.
- Save for college.
Money from holidays, birthdays, or part-time jobs can go a long way.
- Think about how your skills and interests might direct you toward a career.
- Ask people how they got their current jobs.
If possible, shadow careers that interest you.
- Take a look at summer pre-college programs offered by your local UW universities.
- Review UW university course requirements for admission.
- Review & start budgeting for college now.

NOTES:

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SOPHOMORE YEAR

GRADE 10

- Evaluate the extracurricular activities that you began your freshman year.
Try to pick up something new.
- Level up involvement in your activities.
Grow your leadership skills by taking on a new project or contributing new ideas.
- Revisit the plans that you made last year with your counselor.
- Learn the requirements to take advanced courses your junior and senior years.
- If possible, take practice tests to help you prepare for the ACT or SAT.
Free resources are available online.
- Explore ways to use financial aid, grants and/or scholarships to pay for attending a UW university.
- Reexamine the careers you found interesting in your freshman year.
Job shadow someone if you can.
- Talk to your parents and friends about how your career interests align with college majors.
- Explore which UW universities offer your major of interest.
- Take a look at summer pre-college programs offered by your local UW universities.

NOTES:

COLLEGE PLANNING CHECKLIST

JUNIOR YEAR

GRADE 11

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

- Get ready for the ACT and/or SAT.
- Explore potential UW universities and see what appeals to you, then visit websites and attend college fairs to hone in on what's important to you.
- Download the UW Journey App.
Find your UW university that best fits you, based on your interests. Learn more about how to apply and pay for college.
- Stay on track with your classes and grades.
Consider taking challenging classes such as AP/IB.
- Take the ACT and/or SAT.
- Ask the teachers, counselors and coaches who know you best for letters of recommendation.
- Register for UW university tours and preview days.
- Take a look at summer pre-college programs offered by your local UW universities.

SUMMER

- Research admissions requirements for the colleges you are interested in.
- Review priority dates and deadlines for admission.
- Attend UW university tours & preview days.

NOTES:

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SENIOR YEAR

GRADE 12

FALL

- Meet with your high school counselor.
- Keep track of application dates and deadlines, scholarships and housing.
- Gather application materials.
Include transcripts, test scores and letters of recommendation.
- Submit applications to your UW universities.
Go to apply.wisconsin.edu to apply.
- Apply for financial aid using the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) at [FAFSA.gov](https://fafsa.gov). FAFSA typically opens October 1.

WINTER

- Decide which UW you will attend next fall.
- Pay enrollment deposit (if required).
- Complete your housing application.
- Watch your email for university updates.
Universities will be sending communication to your UW university email.
- Make housing decision.

SPRING

- Register for college placement tests.
- Make the last semester of high school count.
Finish strong. These grades will be reviewed by the admissions office.
- Take placement tests.
- Review financial aid offer from your future UW university.
- Send final grades from your senior year to the UW university you are attending.

SUMMER

- Sign up and attend student orientation at your future UW university.
- Prepare for your first year of college.

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