

College Exploration Checklist

While the majority of college admissions preparation occurs junior and senior year, you can start exploring a major and top choice colleges as early as freshman year of high school.

- Consider a major
 - Take introductory classes in subjects you're interested in
 - Consider which classes you excel in
 - Identify your interests, values, strengths, and weaknesses
 - Research [class requirements for different majors](#)
- Explore colleges
 - Visit campuses
 - Attend local college fairs
- Consider and [rank your top colleges](#)
 - Do they offer your major?
 - Cost of tuition and room and board
 - public versus private
 - in-state versus out of state
 - Class size/population
 - Location/distance from home
 - Extracurriculars/sports
 - Right fit
- Create a timeline
 - Determine [when to take the SAT and/or ACT](#)
 - Identify application deadlines
 - [Early decision versus regular admissions](#)
 - Rolling admissions
 - Note financial deadlines
- Take the SAT or ACT (or both)
 - [Decide which test to take](#)
 - [Prepare for the test](#)
 - Register for the test