



# To Do's for College Prep

## Every Year in High School

### Students

- Work with one of your parents to update your information in *FAFSA4caster* at [fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm](https://fafsa.ed.gov/FAFSA/app/f4cForm) and continue to save for college.
- Take challenging classes in core academic subjects. Most colleges require 4 years of English, at least 3 years of social studies (history, civics, geography, economics, etc.), 3 years of mathematics, and 3 years of science, and many require 2 years of foreign language. Round out your course load with classes in computer science and the arts.
- Stay involved in school- or community-based activities that interest you or let you explore career interests. Consider working or volunteering. Remember—it's quality (not quantity) that counts.
- Talk to your school counselor and other mentors about education after high school. Your counselor can answer questions about what classes to take in high school, how to sign up for standardized tests, and where to get money for college.
- Make a list of colleges you would like to visit. Try to visit a college close to home 1 time per year.

### To Explore

- Check out [www.knowhow2go.org](http://www.knowhow2go.org) which suggests some actions you can take as you start thinking about education beyond high school.
- Explore free sources of Financial Aid and scholarships and learn how to avoid scams. Visit [studentaid.gov/types](http://studentaid.gov/types) each year to remain current on information.

### Parents

- Continue to talk with your child about college plans as if he or she will definitely go to college.
- Keep an eye on your child's study habits and grades— stay involved.
- Encourage your child to take Dual Enrollment, Advanced Placement or other challenging classes.
- Watch videos for parents on the “News Parents Can Use” page at [www2.ed.gov/parents/](http://www2.ed.gov/parents/).
- Add to your child's college savings account regularly. Review “Every Year in High School” checklist.

### To Explore

- Visit [www.ed.gov/family-and-community-engagement](http://www.ed.gov/family-and-community-engagement) and under “tools and support” you'll find a link to free, archived webinars. The webinars focus on tools and strategies to foster stronger school-parent-community partnerships.

