



To Do's for College Prep

Junior High or Middle School

Students

- Think about college as an important part of your future. Discuss your thoughts and ideas with your family and with people at school.
- Start saving for college if you haven't already.
- Take challenging and interesting classes to prepare for high school.
- Ask your parent or guardian to help you research which high schools or special programs will most benefit your interests.
- Develop strong study habits and time management skills.
- Do your best in school and on standardized tests. If you are having difficulty, don't give up - get help from a teacher, tutor, or mentor.
- Become involved in school - or community-based activities that let you explore your interests and learn new things.
- Speak with adults, such as your teacher, school counselor or librarian, relatives, or family friends, who you think have interesting jobs. Ask them, "What do you like about your job?" and "What education did you need for your job?"

To Explore

- Find out why you should [consider college now \(studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college\)](http://studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college) and how to pay for it.
- Use the workbook "[My Future, My Way,](http://studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/my-future-my-way.pdf)" a free PDF (studentaid.gov/sites/default/files/my-future-my-way.pdf).
- Take a skills and interest assessment. These help you discover skills you are good at and subjects you like and match your results to possible careers. Ask your school for help finding one or visit [Career Coach \(www.monroecc.edu/career-coach/\)](http://www.monroecc.edu/career-coach/).

Parents

- Use the [Federal Student Aid estimator \(studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/\)](http://studentaid.gov/aid-estimator/) to find out how much federal student aid your child might receive. This information will help you plan ahead.
- Continue saving for your child's college education. If you have not opened a savings account, you can find information about tax advantages and links to state plans at [College Savings Plans Network \(www.collegesavings.org\)](http://www.collegesavings.org).
- Talk to your child about his or her interests and help match those interests with a college major or career.
- Help your child develop good study habits such as studying at the same time and place every day and having the necessary materials to complete assignments.
- Stay in contact with your child's teachers and counselor so that they can let you know about any changes in your child's behavior or schoolwork.
- Keep an eye on your child's grades on his or her tests and report cards, and help him or her find tutoring assistance, if necessary.

To Explore

- View resources to help you save for college, learn about financial aid, and understand the application process on the [Federal Student Aid website \(studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/parents\)](http://studentaid.gov/resources/prepare-for-college/parents).

