

Want to go to college?

It's time to get started...saving, studying and planning! Use this checklist to help you stay on track as you get closer to your goal of higher education.

9th GRADE CHECKLIST

Academic

- Prepare yourself! Get familiar with the college prep curriculum if you wish to enroll in a four-year program in the Montana University System. Also, outline a four-year course plan with your teacher or counselor.
- Learn to study! Focus on learning and improving your study habits. (Your grades will be a permanent part of your transcripts).
- Get organized! Use a student planner to keep track of class assignments and activities.
- Start talking! Talk to your parents, teachers, mentors and counselors about your desire to go to college.
- Get involved! Participate in activities and take electives that interest you. Student government, school newspapers, athletics, school clubs, community service, band or orchestra, dance team and youth groups are all great examples of opportunities.
- Promote yourself! Start, or continue, to build a scholarship and academic portfolio that includes items such as report cards, test scores, writing samples, activities, art work, honors and awards.
- Extend yourself! Apply to attend a summer program on a college campus.

College & Career

- What do I want to be when I grow up? Research careers that match your interests by using computer-based tools like the [Montana Career Information System \(MCIS\)](#).
- Study! Research colleges online (community colleges, colleges of technology, four-year degree colleges). Visit a campus or take a virtual tour.

Financial

- How much does college cost? Research college costs and develop a savings plan for college with your parents.
- How do I pay for college? Attend a workshop on paying for college with your parents.