

Getting Ready for College

8th Grade Year

- Apply for a Social Security Number if you do not already have one.
- Talk to friends and family about careers and possible school choices.
- See school guidance counselor about taking a computerized career planning assessment to explore your interest, abilities, and learn about a variety of careers.
- Consult with school guidance counselors to determine which courses you should take for future college acceptance and to become eligible for state scholarships.
- Discuss your financial situation with your parents to see how they can assist you in paying for your education. Work together to establish a savings plan in which you can participate.

Freshman Year

- Build a flexible schedule allowing for study time, extracurricular activities, and your other interests. Use a day planner, calendar or electronic organizer to help you get organized.
- Get involved only in extracurricular activities that you have a genuine interest in and those to which you are willing to make the necessary time commitment.
- Start developing a resume by keeping a portfolio of your achievements and awards.
- Take your parents with you to talk to your counselor about your four-year schedule of classes, your interests, post-secondary options, and career information.
- Take or retake a computerized career planning assessment in order to explore your interests and abilities, and to learn about a variety of careers.
- Find out about summer jobs and how to gain the skills necessary to obtain one. Look into volunteer opportunities that will expand your experience and skills.

Sophomore Year

- Visit your school's guidance department and explore college catalogs and other college materials including financial aid information. Also check out **ecampustours.com** to visit colleges online.
- Re-evaluate your high school course selection to make sure it meets college requirements.
- Try to complete most of your academic requirements by your junior year.
- Take the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) and/or the PLAN (Preliminary ACT) in October to prepare yourself for college entrance exams.
- Take or retake a computerized career planning assessment in order to explore your interests and abilities, and to learn about a variety of careers.
- If pursuing athletics, check out NCAA requirements.



Arkansas Student Outreach Services

A Service Of:
Arkansas Student Loan Authority
www.asla.info
800-443-6030
www.fundmyfuture.info