

College Preparation Guide

Student's Name: _____ ✓

7th, 8th, & 9th Grade	Personal	Make a list of the financial and career benefits of going to college.	
		Identify three career areas that include your favorite activities.	
		Determine education needs of careers that interest you.	
	Academic	Identify which courses you will need to be ready for college. Make a plan.	
		Take 8th grade algebra. It is a key turning point in preparing for college.	
	Financial	Open a college savings account (CollegeAccess 529 Plan).	
		Attend a financial aid planning meeting with your parents.	
	Planning	Start your own South Dakota College preparation guide.	
Start examining web sites for different colleges.			

10th Grade	Personal	Study habits are critical! Be sure you do homework regularly and on time.	
		Use a computer and the Internet often in your homework.	
	Academic	Take the COMPASS & PSAT Tests to determine your progress for college.	
		Start a Career and Education Planning Portfolio. See your Counselor.	
	Financial	Complete a federal financial aid calculation guide.	
		Start indentifying financial aid deadlines and application procedures.	
	Planning	Collect information about five colleges that you might attend.	

11th Grade	Personal	Be serious about your daily study habits. Do your homework on time!	
		Earn good grades. Not just for GPA...to get ready for college level courses.	
	Academic	Sign up for Advanced Placement, PSAT, SAT, ACT Tests**	
		Start collecting information to fill out admissions forms	
	Financial	Set goals for financial aid and scholarships. (Do this! You may qualify!)	
		Decide on goals and dates for applying for financial aid & scholarships.	
	Planning	Review the information you received from colleges.	
		Schedule and visit your top-five colleges & ask lots of questions.	
Create a checklist of due dates for college application materials			
Ask your counselor to review your progress and preliminary decisions.			

12th Grade	Personal	If you complete high school graduation requirements early, start taking college courses! Don't waste this time! Ask your counselor for details.	
	Academic	Consider taking dual credit or Advanced Placement classes.	
		Sign up for CLEP, Advanced Placement, SAT, ACT Tests**	
	Financial	Apply for financial aid after January 1st and before March 1st to qualify for financial aid and scholarships.	
		Submit scholarship applications to your college choices.	
	Planning	Review your checklist of Admissions Applications.	
		Ask your counselor for advice about your college preparation status.	
		Have official test scores sent to your top-five colleges.	
Monitor mail received from colleges regarding deadlines.			
Submit college admissions applications, preferably by Jan. 15th.			
Review your college acceptances and decide which college to attend.			

Ready for College !	Personal	Congratulations! You should now be ready for success in college. Ask your college if they have a mentor program, to help with your transition..	
		Make sure your shots are up to date.	
	Academic	Consider enrolling in summer classes at your selected college.	
	Financial	Find out when payments are due to the college you selected.	
	Planning	Make sure your final transcript is sent to the College you selected.	
		Notify colleges of your decision by May 1st.	
		Ask your selected college for advice about: bringing your PC, car, & paperwork to college. Ask for your roommates contact information.	