

## College Checklist

Welcome to the world of higher education! You worked hard to get to this point. Follow this year-by-year guide to set yourself up for success in the workforce.

### FRESHMAN YEAR

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- Meet with professors and advisors.** Get to know the faculty who will assist in your academic journey.
    - Waive FERPA. If you want your parents to be able to help you navigate college, then sign your school's Family Education Rights and Privacy Act waiver.

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  - Create 4-year plan.** To graduate in four years, you typically need to take approximately 15 credit hours each fall and spring semester. Tip: The number of credits in which you are enrolled will directly affect the amount of financial aid received.

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  - Engage with Career Services.** Take personality and career assessments.

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  - Get involved in student activities and discover academic resources.** These experiences can lead to scholarships!

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  - Fill out your FAFSA for next year.** Fill out as early as October 1, and keep in mind that federal money may be first-come, first-served.

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  - Apply for scholarships available for current students.** There may be funds available to current students; ask your financial aid office, advisor, or faculty in your major department.

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  - Consider summer courses at a local community college.** Over a span of four years, the additional credit hours could add up, saving you time and money.
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### SOPHOMORE YEAR

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- Apply for internship or other learning opportunities, and start planning your career.** Complete first internship in field of choice (summer or during the school year) or consider study abroad options. Set up meaningful job shadow and volunteer opportunities.
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**Continue involvement in student activities.**

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**Fill out your FAFSA for next year and apply for scholarships available for current students.**

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## JUNIOR YEAR

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**Apply for internships.** Complete second internship in field of choice (during summer or school year).

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**Strengthen leadership skills.** Take on leadership responsibilities in student activities.

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**Build connections.** Establish relationships with professors and staff who can serve as a reference.

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**Fill out your FAFSA for next year and apply for scholarships available for current students.**

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## SENIOR YEAR

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**Polish résumé and cover letter.**

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**Set up mock interviews.**

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**Attend career fairs.**

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**Be proactive about post-graduation.** Interview for jobs in field of choice or apply to graduate school.

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**Develop a plan to repay loans.** Consider options to decrease what you owe through loan forgiveness or debt consolidation.

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**Complete FAFSA as an Independent Student if you plan to pursue graduate or professional school immediately following graduation.** Don't forget to apply for graduate scholarships as well!

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