

## 9th Grade College Planning Tip Sheet

### GOAL

To develop good study habits and lay the foundation for a successful high school career and beyond.

1. Get to know your school counselor. Ask about the academic paths that can set you up for success in college. For some schools, counselors are required to write college recommendations, so keep the relationship going with more than one meeting.
2. Create a four-year plan. Learn the levels of courses offered by your school, such as AP and Dual Enrollment, and which you can take now to prepare.

### GO DEEPER

[Which is Better, AP or Dual Enrollment?](#)

3. Take the PSAT to practice for the SAT. Download the College Board's free "Daily Practice for the New SAT" app to get you started.
4. Focus on getting good grades. Ninth grade lays the groundwork for high school success, and forming good study habits now will pay off later.
5. Get involved in activities that interest you. Colleges want to see passion and commitment. If there's something that really excites you, explore it. Don't wait.

### GO DEEPER

[Is Your Student Angular Enough?](#)

6. Make the most of your summers. Are you entrepreneurial? Start a small business...even if it's mowing lawns. Having a job, even at a local ice cream store, will show you're reliable. Consider volunteering in an area you have an interest in, or take a summer class to prepare for more advanced classes.

### GO DEEPER

[Making the Most of Summer Activities for High School Students](#)

7. Learn about the different types of student financial aid. It's never too early to get to know how scholarships, loans, grants, and other forms of public and private aid work.

### GO DEEPER

[Complete Guide to Paying for College: Strategies & Tips](#)