

YOUR FRESHMEN YEAR CHECKLIST

IT'S NEVER TOO EARLY TO BE COLLEGE READY.
COMPLETE THESE TASKS TO STAY ON TRACK FOR YOUR FUTURE.

LEARN ABOUT YOUR HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Talk to your school counselor each year to make sure you are taking the right class credits to graduate. These high school requirements will help you be college-ready to help you with college admissions.

GET ORGANIZED EARLY

Stay organized in high school to manage time effectively, develop lasting successful habits, reduce stress, and meet deadlines. Three tips to consider are: use a planner or digital calendar for assignments, establish a study routine, and maintain tidy school materials (backpack, assignments etc.) Tools like binders with colorful tabs help organization. Staying organized helps your success in high school and beyond.

UNDERSTAND YOUR GRADE POINT AVERAGE (GPA), RAISE & MAINTAIN IT

Your freshman GPA will impact the GPA you have when you apply to college. Maintain good grades throughout high school to expand college options. Stay on top of your GPA by turning in your school assignments on time, communicate with your teachers regularly, check your school email, and stay up to date on your class platforms like Schoology or Google Classroom. Teachers send important class updates and grade information through these platforms.

EXPLORE DIFFERENT COLLEGE PATHWAYS AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Certificates (1-year), Associate degrees (2-year), and Bachelor degrees (4-years) are what students work on after high school. Community colleges will offer certificate and associate degrees, while 4-year universities and colleges offer bachelor degrees. The career you want will determine the best educational path for you, but most jobs in Colorado will require further education past a high school diploma. Utilize career exploration tools such as the Careers tab in [MaiaLearning](#) to investigate high-demand career opportunities by filtering through categories, pathways, or specific jobs. Starting your research early will ensure you're well-informed by the time senior year arrives.

CREATE SHORT-TERM GOALS FOR HIGH SCHOOL AND LONG-TERM GOALS FOR AFTER HIGH SCHOOL

Consider your goals for high school and beyond. **What do you aspire to achieve?** Reflect on your ambitions and the steps required now to attain them later. Use your school's resources, such as tutoring, teacher and peer support, whenever you need clarification or extra assistance along the way.

GET INVOLVED IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES THAT INTEREST YOU

Contact your school's athletics department, family engagement liaison, counselor, or college advisor to discover extracurricular or volunteer opportunities within your community or across the city.

Questions?

Reach out to your school Counselor or stop by your school's DSF Future Center!