



Committed to Preparing All Students to Graduate College, Career and Life Ready!

Freshman Checklist for College Readiness (Class of 2024)

Fall

Plan for the Year Ahead

- Meet with your counselor to **discuss your college plans and course schedule and endorsements**.
- **Review your schedule** to make sure you are enrolled in challenging and rigorous classes. A wide variety of advanced courses are available to you including AP, Dual Credit, Dual Enrolment, etc. Also, colleges prefer at least three years of a foreign language and four years of core classes.
- Start thinking about your **career goals** and talk to people in that field - ask lots of questions!
- **GET INVOLVED in extracurricular activities** and begin to make a resume of your activities. This will be of great use for you when starting to apply for college admissions as well as jobs.
- **Attend college fairs** and ask lots of questions about admissions, majors, financial aid, programs, etc.
- WORK HARD on your **academics, grade point average**, homework and semester exams.
- Develop good work habits for homework and time management skills.

Take the PSAT 9th

- The PSAT is tentatively scheduled to be administered in late January 2021 (information will be shared by your campus once those plans are finalized). AISD will pay for you to take it and there is no need to pre-register.
- **Be ready to do your best as the PSAT score is not only a predictor of how well you will do on the actual SAT but also it is used as a measure of College Readiness!**

Spring

Prepare for Tests

- Do your very best on your **end-of-course** exams. Talk to your counselor if you have questions.
- Prepare for your semester exams and finish strong!

Signing up for Courses for Next Fall

- Talk to your counselor and teachers about taking AP, Dual Credit, Dual Enrollment, or Articulated courses next fall so that you can earn college credits while in high school.
- Check your progress towards graduation; that you are earning the needed credits and maintaining a strong GRADE POINT AVERAGE.
- Revise and update your 4 YEAR PLAN (in TEAMS) and make sure you are completing needed classes to earn your endorsement.

Learn About Colleges

- Visit colleges online and compare programs, cost of attendance and even take a virtual tour at <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org> and <https://www.ownyourownfuture.com>
- Tour colleges during Spring break or in the summer (colleges have special events for high school students).

Stay Focused

- Make sure to be doing your best in all classes
- Keep in mind the GPA (which drives your rank) that you will use to apply for college during the Summer/Fall of your senior year is calculated from **ALL coursework taken from ninth-11th grade**.

Explore Summer Opportunities

- Look for summer opportunities to put on your resume; internships, jobs or classes taken in the summer.
- Keep track of your volunteer activities and enrichment programs that you participate in.
- Talk to your counselor about taking **advanced courses**; like AP, Dual Credit and/or Dual Enrollment in the spring of your sophomore year or be ready to take additional advanced courses for the new school year.
- Start a summer reading list and visit college campuses (many colleges have special events during the summer)



Resources

Academic Resources

How To Start Making Your College Dream A Reality: <http://www.ownyourfuture.com>

What's Avid?: <https://austinisd.org/avid>

SAT Customized Test Prep: www.khanacademy.org

ACT Personalized Practice: www.academy.act.org

TSI Test Prep Through ACCUPLACER & Download the APP: <https://accuplacer.collegeboard.org/student/practice>

TSI Test Prep Through through the ACC Website: <http://sites.austincc.edu/tsiprep/>

College Resources

Explore And Compare College Options: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>

Naviance College Match: www.student.naviance.com

Compare Colleges: <https://collegescorecard.ed.gov/>

Get Financial Aid Guidance: <https://StudentAid.gov>

Career Resources

Where To Learn About Careers? <https://roadtripnation.com>

Explore Careers: Naviance Student App: (www.student.naviance.com)

Other Career Exploration Tools: <http://launchmycareertx.org>

Texas Workforce Commission (TWC): <https://lmci.state.tx.us/explore/TSC/k12.asp>

Careers In The Military: <https://www.careersinthemilitary.com/>

ASVAB Test: Contact a Recruiter: <http://www.todaymilitary.com/>

College Fairs

NH College Fair—Early March -- Date and Location TBA

NACAC Austin National College Fair—Late March -- Format and location TBA