



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

Sophomore Checklist for College Readiness (Class of 2023)

Fall

Plan for the Year Ahead

- Meet with your counselor to **discuss your college plans, 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 Enrollment, etc. Also, keep in mind that colleges prefer at least three years of a foreign language and four years of core classes.
- Start a calendar of important dates and deadlines.
- Get more 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**. Ask lots of questions about majors, financial aid, supports /resources available, etc.
- Prepare for your semester exams.

Take the PSAT (NMSQT)

- Take the PSAT and do your best. The PSAT is tentatively scheduled to be administered on **January 26, 2021** (you will get information from your campus once 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 scores 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!** (You will retake the PSAT one more time in the fall of your Junior year).
- When you take the PSAT/NMSQT, check "yes" for Student Search Services so that you can get information about colleges and scholarships.

Spring

Prepare for Tests

- Use the access code from your PSAT/NMSQT score report to customize an SAT study plan. This helps you explore interests and colleges, majors and careers. Based on your performance on the PSAT you are able to customize and SAT study plan; getting practice in the areas that you may need to improve on:
- https://www.khanacademy.org/sat?utm_source=cbcta-osp&utm_medium=cb418-cb&utm_campaign=practice
- Do your very best on your STAAR tests. Talk to your counselor if you have questions.
- Prepare for your semester exams and FINISH STRONG!

Signing up for Courses 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 through: <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org> and through <https://www.ownyourownfuture.com>
- Tour colleges during Spring break or in the summer (colleges have special events for high school students).

Stay Focused

- Sign up for rigorous courses; AP, articulated, Dual Credit and/or Dual Enrollment courses for your junior year.
- Make sure to DO YOUR BEST in all classes. Keep in mind that the GPA (which drives your rank) that you will use to apply for college admissions during the Summer/Fall of your senior year, is calculated from **ALL coursework taken from 9th-11th grade** (even including HS credits earned in 7th/8th grade).

Explore Summer Opportunities

- Look for summer opportunities to put on your resume: internships, jobs or classes taken in the summer.
- Talk to your counselor about taking advanced courses, like Dual Credit and 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.
- Visit/tour college campuses and take advantage of special events that they offer for HS students.



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 TBD

NACAC Austin National College Fair—late March --format and location TBA