

Freshman College Planning Checklist

ALWAYS

- Discuss college/military/career path plans with your parents
- Keep your grades up and take the necessary courses for graduation
- Do volunteer work, community services and extra curricular activity hours and log it
- Search and apply for scholarships

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY

- Join the Freshman Google Classroom** hosted by the College & Career Center (CCC). Join the google classroom with your @qcusd email and **class code: lrtfqhs**
- Keep track of your accomplishments as you go. Create a file now and record a summary of your activities, jobs, and experiences to use in creating a resume and also to generate ideas for college essays. It's easy if everything is in one place when you need it!

Create a four-year high school plan.

Think about what you'd like to accomplish in the next four years.

- Get to know the levels of courses offered by QCHS. Make sure you know which high school courses are required by colleges and that you're taking the right classes as you go. You can ask your counselor about what those "right" classes are for you.
- Start thinking about your life after school, including the types of jobs that might interest you. Of course, these will change — often — but it's good to start thinking about the possibilities.
- Identify your interests — likes and dislikes — not just in classes, but also in every area. This will help you focus on your goals.
- Talk to other people, such as your school counselor, teachers and recent college graduates who are working, professionals in the community, etc., about careers you might find interesting.
- Use Career Exploration tools to find your niche; self-assessment testing, job shadowing, summer jobs, online research, workplace tours/visits, get an adult mentor, Career day

Meet with your high school counselor. Your counselor knows how to help you get the most out of high school. Be sure to take some time during the school year to discuss post-high-school plans with him or her.

Utilize the QCHS College & Career Center. Located in A-111, open daily for student access.

Engagement in *The Center* will help narrow down your school selection and study areas of interest.

- Take advantage of weekly college/university and professional speakers in the Center.
- Attend the College Fair in the fall and the Career Fair in the spring.
- Research Colleges, Universities, Trade School and Military options.
- Regularly visit The College and Career Center for information and guidance

Participate in extracurricular activities. Academics aren't everything.

Explore your interest in a sport, school club, music or drama group, or community volunteer activity.

Remember that colleges would rather see real involvement in one activity instead of a loose connection to several.

- Explore summer opportunities. Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.
- Investigate summer enrichment programs offered at different colleges. Arizona schools have many opportunities.
- If you're interested in playing sports in college, research the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility requirements. The NCAA requires completion of certain core courses; you can find the specifics at ncaaclearinghouse.net.

Get familiar with the PSAT-related assessments, SAT & ACT Testing . Most four-year colleges consider applicants' scores on college admission.

- ❑ Take the PSAT™ 8/9. Sign up to take the first of the College Board assessments to set a baseline. This test will help you build up your skills to take the SAT in 11th or 12th grade.

Save for college. It's never too early to put money aside for college. Every little bit helps! Learning about financial aid early on can also help you down the road.

Rather than waiting until the end of high school to earn scholarships, register for opportunities now!

- ❑ [Raiseme.com](https://raiseme.com) and [College Board Scholarships](https://collegeboard.org/scholarships) both enable you to earn scholarships throughout high school, for doing all the things that will best prepare you to succeed. Whether that's getting good grades, volunteering in the community or joining an extracurricular. Sign in and log your actions.
- ❑ There are not a ton of scholarships for underclassmen, but they are out there. [GoingMerry.com](https://goingmerry.com) has a variety of scholarships-you just have to carefully read the eligibility requirements they list to see if you are eligible to apply.

TIPS

DON'T Procrastinate

JOIN the Google Classroom

CREATE your plan (it's ok, you can make changes as you go)

KEEP your grades UP

VOLUNTEER your time

PARTICIPATE in activities

MEET with your counselor

VISIT the College & Career Center

APPLY for Scholarships

REACH OUT if you need help!

Your QCHS Counselors, College/Career Specialist and College and Career Advisors are always available to assist you. We can answer questions and help you navigate through high school and make a smooth transition to College, the Military or the Workforce.