

## Sophomore 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 Sophomore Google Classroom** hosted by the College & Career Center (CCC). Join the google classroom with your @qcusd email and **class code: ehwcfl4**
- Create an email specific to your college inquiry/application, SAT/ACT testing and scholarship application process. This will help keep all of your related communications in one place- Ex. [AmySmithGoes2College@gmail.com](mailto:AmySmithGoes2College@gmail.com)
- Keep track of your accomplishments as you go. Create a file 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!

### Review your four-year high school plan.

Think about what you did as a freshman. What are the next steps for you to meet your goals.

- Continue to investigate the types of jobs that might interest you.
- Identify your interests — likes and dislikes — not just in classes, but also in every area.
- Explore summer opportunities. Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest.
- 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 counselor again** to evaluate your course load for graduation and make sure it matches your post high school plans. Are you taking the right classes for your college of choice, do you need EVIT classes, etc.

This is a good time to reassess your goals and fine tune your plans.

### Think about your College options

- Where do you want to go (in state, out of state)? What schools have your area of study? Do you want to start at community college or Four year?
- Visit in-person or take Virtual tours for any colleges you might be interested in.
- Follow your top choices on social media/YouTube to get a feel for the campus environment, activities and community

### 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.

- 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](http://ncaaclearinghouse.net).

**Take the PSAT/NMSQT** typically in October or the PSAT 10 in February/March. It provides valuable feedback on your college readiness and can determine areas to study for SAT.

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

Queen Creek High School | College & Career Center | Mrs. Price | [cprice@qcusd.org](mailto:cprice@qcusd.org) | 480.987.5979

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.

**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 your senior year 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 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.**