

Section 6

ROAD MAP
TO COLLEGE

activities 48-54

» **planning for high school graduation**

The activities in this section are designed to help your student with their educational planning for each year in middle and high school. Such planning includes identifying the right courses to take and preparing for standardized tests. **Your goal as a mentor** is to assist your student in tracking their progress toward high school graduation and their college and career goals.

» Resource List:

The following websites may help you continue to help your student prepare for high school graduation:

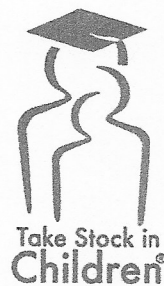
collegeboard.org and act.org College and career exploration, alongside test prep and college readiness information

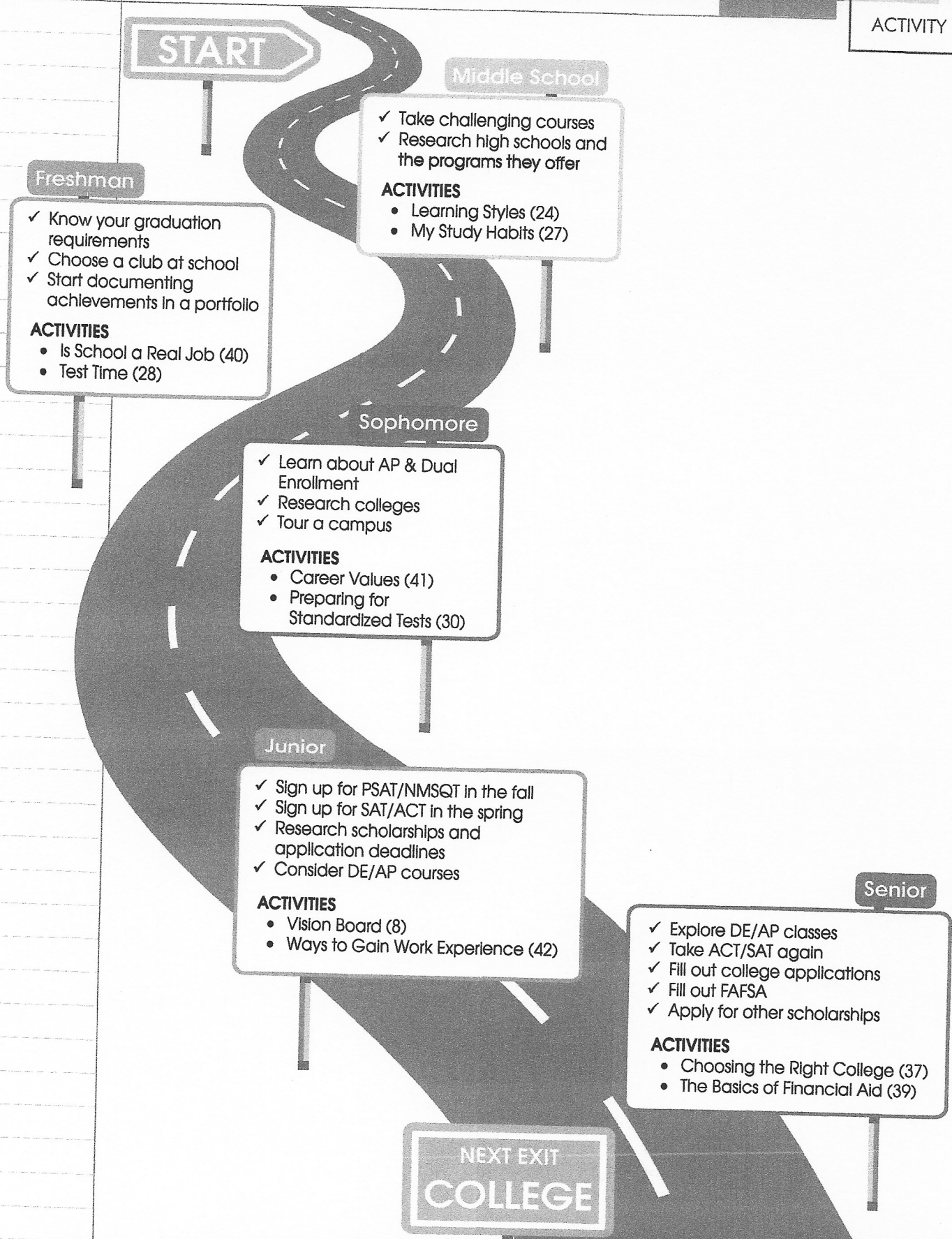
FSassessments.org Information about Florida's standardized tests

floridashines.org Academic advising, career readiness, and distance learning resources for FL students

floridastudentfinancialaid.org Academic requirements for Florida Bright Futures and other scholarships

fldoe.org/academics/graduation-requirements Academic advisement for Florida students is published each year; students are always held to the requirements which were current in their 9th grade year







Learning Objective:

The student will follow the recommended suggestions for college/career bound freshmen.



Materials Needed:

Copy of "Checklist: Middle School," activity sheet, pen/pencil



Instructions:

Review the "Checklist" with your middle school student. Keep a copy of this list in a safe place and allow them to check off each task as they complete it. Building a college-bound mind set will help your student on the road to college and future success even while your student is in middle school.

Checklist:

- Research high schools in your area and special programs they may offer
- Take the most challenging math class you can handle
- Get involved in school or community-based extracurricular activities
- Start reading magazine and newspaper articles
- Keep a journal to develop good writing skills
- Ask your counselor about challenging and interesting courses you could take
- Explore career options
- Talk to older siblings or other young people you know who are attending college.



This checklist gives you a general sense of what your middle school student should be doing this year. Take Stock in Children College Success Coaches use a more specific version of this checklist with current dates, local dates and deadlines included. Contact your student's CSC for a copy of this year's middle school checklist.



Learning Objective:

The student will create an outline of the courses they will need to complete to stay on track for high school graduation.



Materials Needed:

Copy of "High School Graduation Requirements" activity sheet, pen/pencil, access to internet.



Instructions:

Students are required to complete a certain number of courses on their road to high school graduation. You can find this information at fldoe.org/academics/graduation-requirements. In order to ensure that your student is on track for graduation, assist them with outlining their course plan. Use the chart below to note the number of credits your student needs to earn in each subject area, and courses they may wish to take each year to meet the requirement.

ROAD MAP TO HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION

Subject Area	Required Credits	Freshman Course(s)	Sophomore Course(s)	Junior Course(s)	Senior Course(s)
English					
Mathematics					
History/Social Studies					
Science					
Art					
Foreign Language					
Physical Education/Health					
Electives					



Keep this list in a safe place and refer back to it annually. This will be a good way for your student to ensure that they are on the right path toward high school graduation.



Learning Objective:

The student will follow the recommended suggestions for college/career bound freshmen.



Materials Needed:

Copy of "Checklist Freshman Year," activity sheet, pen/pencil.



Instructions:

Review the "Checklist" with your freshman student. Keep a copy of this list in a safe place and allow them to check off each task as they complete it.

Checklist:

- Create a GPA goal
- Choose a club at school
- Start working on your community service hours
- Create a high school resume and include your awards, achievements, paid and/or volunteer work, extracurricular activities, classes taken, fluent language(s), and technical skills
- Explore career options
- Start preparing for the PSAT
- Begin studying for the appropriate Florida State Assessments (FSA)



Review this list on occasion to ensure that your student is on track.

This checklist gives you a general sense of what your freshman student should be doing this year. Take Stock in Children College Success Coaches use a more specific version of this checklist with current dates, local dates and deadlines included. Contact your student's CSC for a copy of this year's Freshman Checklist.



Learning Objective:

The student will follow the recommended suggestions for college/career bound sophomores.



Materials Needed:

Copy of "Checklist: Sophomore Year," activity sheet, pen/pencil.



Instructions:

Review the "Checklist" with your sophomore student. Keep a copy of this list in a safe place and allow them to check off each task as they complete it.

Checklist:

- Take PSAT
- Print out HS graduation requirements
- Begin thinking about an internship experience or career shadowing opportunity. (what, when, where)
- Inquire about: AP, dual enrollment, virtual, the requirements for high school graduation, college admissions, Bright Futures scholarships
- Begin to research colleges, college fairs, summer program offerings at colleges
- Use the FAFSA 4Caster to estimate the amount of need-based financial aid you'll be eligible for
- Narrow down top colleges and universities to coincide with your interested area of study
- Research standardized tests and requirements of these top schools
- Update HS resume w/ awards, achievements, clubs
- Participate in college tours when possible



This checklist gives you a general sense of what your sophomore student should be doing this year. Take Stock in Children College Success Coaches use a more specific version of this checklist with current dates, local dates and deadlines included. Contact your student's CSC for a copy of this year's Sophomore Checklist.



Learning Objective:

The student will follow the recommended suggestions for college/career bound juniors.



Materials Needed:

Copy of "Checklist: Junior Year," activity sheet, pen/pencil



Instructions:

Review the "Checklist" with your junior student. Keep a copy of this list in a safe place and allow them to check off each task as they complete it.

Checklist:

- Take as many AP and Dual Enrollment classes as you can comfortably take pertaining to a proposed major. Be sure to consult with a college advisor and high school counselor.
- Take PSAT/NMSQT
- Sign up for SAT/ACT
- Deeper dive into college/university list of requirements for application; i.e., ACT, SAT scores, essays, letters of reference
- SAT/ACT; begin preparing for test
- Create scholarship planner
- Update HS resume w/ awards, achievements, work experience, and leadership roles
- Continue to set and work towards GPA Goal
- Continue to earn and record volunteer/community service hours
- Participate in college tours, and research summer program offerings at colleges
- Summer; start filling out college applications. If you qualified for a SAT/ACT fee waiver, you will receive application fee waivers as well.



This checklist gives you a general sense of what your junior student should be doing this year. Take Stock in Children College Success Coaches use a more specific version of this checklist with current dates, local dates and deadlines included. Contact your student's CSC for a copy of this year's Junior Checklist.



Learning Objective:

The student will follow the recommended suggestions for college/career-bound Seniors.



Materials Needed:

Copy of "Checklist: Senior Year," activity sheet, pen/pencil



Instructions:

Review the "Checklist" with your Senior student. Keep a copy of this list in a safe place and allow them to check off each task as they complete it.

Checklist:

- Take as many AP and Dual Enrollment classes as you can comfortably take pertaining to a proposed major. Be sure to consult with a college advisor and high school counselor.
- Sign up for and take SAT/ACT
- Update HS resume w/ awards, achievements, work experience, and leadership roles
- Continue to set and work towards GPA Goal
- Early decision deadline, October 1
- Explore schools' application process. Look at their applications, essay/biographical requirements, average GPA, exam requirements, recommendation requirements, etc.
- Check out the virtual tours at websites of any colleges you are interested in attending.
 - Log-in with them as this will get them to mail or email you additional information.
 - If you feel very strongly about 1 or 2 schools, consider applying for early admission.
 - Be sure to have your scores sent to every school you may want to attend. Your scores will be updated every time you retake an exam, and this will get you on their mailing list
- Practice writing essays
- Senior photos
- Apply for Bright Futures and other scholarships
- Attend FAFSA workshop and apply
- Attend Senior College Prep workshop
- Review the Take Stock in College information with your College Success Coach; this includes, Take Stock Connect, Signal Vine, and the contact information for College Completion Coaches.
- Get to know the top 2 schools that you applied for; meal plans, dormitory, landscape, administrative buildings, bookstore, student union, etc.



This checklist gives you a general sense of what your senior student should be doing this year.

Take Stock in Children College Success Coaches use a more specific version of this checklist with current dates, local dates and deadlines included. Contact your student's CSC for a copy of this year's Senior Checklist.