

# Your Planning Checklist

# Grade 9

From **First in the Family: Advice About College from First-Generation Students – Your High School Years**, by Kathleen Cushman (Next Generation Press, 2005)

- Let your teachers know that you plan to go to college.
- Are your courses considered “college prep”? If you don’t know, ask your guidance counselor to make sure they are.

**TIP** Colleges like to see challenging courses on your record, even if you get lower grades in them.

**TIP** If you want to play sports in college, you should know that college athletic teams have requirements about what high school courses you take.

- Let your teachers get to know you better. For a start, write down the names of the ones you trust or admire most:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you know other students like you who are planning to go to college? It helps to share your ideas and plans with them. Write down the names of the ones you trust or admire most:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

- Read as much as you can this year. It will give you new ideas, make you a better thinker, and build your vocabulary. Start a list of things you enjoy reading:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

- Get involved in activities you care about—at school and after school (including sports, clubs, community service, church group, jobs, etc.). List the ones that most appeal to you:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

- Think about your current interests. What career fields might match up with them? As you get new ideas, write them here:

YOUR INTEREST

CAREER FIELDS CONNECTED WITH IT

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_

- Start to look for information about colleges that fit with your interests. The guidance office will have books, catalogs, and posters, or you can check out colleges on the Internet. (Just type “college search” into Google or any search engine.) If you find any that appeal to you, write their names on this list, using extra space if you need it:

NAME OF COLLEGE

CAREER FIELDS CONNECTED WITH IT

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

- Make a folder or large envelope marked “Grade 9 Portfolio” and save your best work in it, so it won’t get lost. This should include class assignments, but don’t forget to include poems, artwork, or evidence of other things you do outside of school.
- Use your summer to have fun while you learn. Ask your guidance office about enrichment programs (camps, summer courses) that help students like you prepare for college.