



Know the Ropes

Any great adventure requires some organization and preparation – and planning for your future is no exception. But with homework, after-school practices, jobs and parties – you have to have a social life, right? – who has the time? We're here to help. NEXT has created a checklist of what you need to do at each stage of high school and when you need to do it – so you're not left out on the ropes!

Freshman Year

Fall

- Develop a plan for the classes you'll need to take over the next four years. Strive to take the most challenging courses available.
- Get involved in extracurricular activities (clubs, student government, etc.) or volunteer pursuits that interest you. Check with your guidance counselor to find out about what's available if you need suggestions.
- Build relationships with teachers, counselors and coaches who can help provide college recommendations.
- Get familiar with the standardized tests that you will need to take.

Spring

- Talk about college costs with your family now so that you can begin to make financial preparations.
- Schedule a meeting with your counselor to make sure coursework for your sophomore year is on track.
- Apply for summer internships, jobs or volunteer activities.