



College Planning Guide - Freshman Year

- Build strong academic, language, mathematics and critical thinking skills by taking **challenging courses**.
- Study hard and get excellent grades. **Your college GPA begins now!**
- Strengthen your vocabulary by increasing your reading.
- Become involved in co-curricular activities. Find an organization(s) that you really enjoy, and begin to plan, organize, etc activities.
- Peruse the college information and brochures in the hall in the college area.
- Practice for the Pre-ACT test (<https://resources.opened.com/okact/>)
- Begin saving money for college.
- Visit college campuses whenever you are out of town. Try to imagine yourself in a large college, a medium size college, or a small university.
- **Remember that your GPA as a freshman comprise 1/3 of your upper school GPA that colleges review for admission.**
- Volunteer for community service, and keep a record of your service hours for your resume.

High School 101: Freshman Survival Guide (Paperback)

by Dawn Burnette

1. In high school, everything you do -- or do not do --- counts. Your transcript covers 4 years of grades and courses.
2. The easiest way to do poorly in a class is not to do homework. The converse is also true. Homework matters in high school! It shows a teacher you care about the class. Even if a teacher does not "grade" it, it is expected you will do it as practice, just as you would practice a sport, an instrument, or a part in a play. Develop good study habits.
3. Every teacher in high school believes his/her subject/class is THE most important. Students need to accept this and learn to live with it.
4. Plan your time well; become a master/mistress of time management.
5. Know whom to turn to when in need. Counselors and advisors want to help and guide you. Don't wait until you are in trouble to visit them.

6. Choose your friends wisely. If you look for trouble you will find it. Adolescence brings new challenges in many areas -- academic, personal, social, etc. All actions have consequences and in high school you must learn to take responsibility for your actions.
7. Think before you speak. Your words may get you into trouble with teachers, administrators and your peers. Learn tact -- what it is, how to use it -- or prepare for the consequences.
8. When in doubt, don't. Trust your gut and you will usually do the "right" thing.