



COLLEGE FRESHMAN CHECKLIST

Use this checklist during your first year of college to help you stay on track.

- ☐ **Attend orientation.** Most colleges provide an orientation session for incoming students on their campus. Even if you've previously toured the campus, you're encouraged to attend and gain valuable insights and information about your new school. This is also a great opportunity to meet fellow classmates, professors, and familiarize yourself with campus facilities.
- ☐ **Complete the FAFSA.** Students must submit a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) each year of college to be eligible for federal and state financial assistance. You're encouraged to complete the FAFSA as soon as it becomes available each year. Contact the financial aid office at your institution to make sure they have your FAFSA results.
- ☐ **Check on your financial aid.** Many campuses have an online portal to monitor your financial aid awarded, including scholarships and grants. Talk to your financial aid office if you have any questions.
- ☐ **Check your email.** Colleges typically use email as their primary form of communication with students. Be sure to check your inbox often for updates about financial aid, campus activities and messages from instructors.
- ☐ **Maintain good study habits.** In college, it's important to schedule adequate study time. Download [The Perfect 10 Study Habits](#) at UCanGo2.org for some great tips.
- ☐ **Use a planner.** Marking test dates and other class deadlines will make coursework more manageable.
- ☐ **Consider your interests.** How could your interests, skills and values connect you to potential careers? Take the "Learn About Yourself" assessments at OKcollegestart.org to review career options that may be right for you.
- ☐ **Look for opportunities.** Most campuses post job shadow and internship opportunities on their websites and in campus bulletins. Find out who you can contact on campus to learn about these options. Arrange informational interviews with people in careers that interest you.
- ☐ **Participation is key.** You can meet new people and gain great experience by getting involved with campus clubs and organizations.
- ☐ **Remember your resume.** Keep track of your awards, volunteer work and scholarships received. Add them to your resume with the Resume Builder on OKcollegestart.org.

- ☐ **Search for money.** Continue looking for scholarships. Check out [UCanGo2's Scholarships page](#) and [OKcollegestart's Find Scholarships section](#) for upcoming deadlines. Also, see if your school offers any department-specific or major-specific scholarships.
- ☐ **Use office hours.** If a certain college major interests you, talk about it with department professors during their office hours. Building relationships with those in your field will enrich your college experience.
- ☐ **Check with an adviser.** Visit your academic adviser to see if you're taking the right classes for your major and career goals. Remember that meeting the requirements for degree completion is your responsibility, so educate yourself about the requirements for your degree path to make sure you're enrolled in the correct courses.
- ☐ **Interview others.** Explore a certain career by interviewing someone who works in that field. Use the Explore Careers tool at [OKcollegestart.org](#) to learn more about your specific job interests.
- ☐ **Work wisely.** If you're considering a part-time job, be sure it will work with your class calendar. Try working a campus job — these positions are usually compatible with your schedule.
- ☐ **Visit the career center.** It's okay to be unsure about your college major. Your school's career center may have some assessments that could steer you in the right direction.
- ☐ **Manage your money.** It's important to develop healthy money habits while in college. Learn to manage your money, avoid debt, build wealth, and live a lifestyle you can afford during and after college at [OklahomaMoneyMatters.org](#).
- ☐ **Walk the career fair.** Attending these fairs will give you great exposure to various careers. Check your campus email or ask the career center for information about upcoming events.
- ☐ **Consider a different course.** Enroll in classes that are interesting to you. Your freshman year is a good time to take introductory courses that will give you an overview of specific subjects.
- ☐ **Summertime options.** Spend some time planning your summer activities. You can have an enjoyable summer while exploring career options through internships, volunteer work, or unique summer jobs.