



COLLEGE FRESHMAN CHECKLIST

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

- Complete the FAFSA.** Students must submit a [FAFSA](#) each year of college. 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.
- 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.
- 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 and volunteer work. 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](https://www.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](https://www.oklahomamoneymatters.org).
- Walk the career fair.** Attending career fairs will give you great exposure to various careers. Check your campus email for 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.

