

**University of Chicago Collegiate Scholars Program
College Planning Check-list**



Ninth grade

- Let your teachers know that you plan to go to college

- Ensure you are taking the most rigorous, “college prep” classes your school offers. Not sure if you are? Talk to your guidance counselor.
 - *Colleges like to see challenging courses on your record, even if you get lower grades in them.*
 - *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. Write down the names of the teachers you trust or admire the most:

_____	_____
_____	_____

- What other students at your school are planning to go to college? Sharing ideas with them and talking about your plans now is a good idea. Write down the names of your fellow students that you trust or admire the most:

_____	_____
_____	_____

- 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

_____	_____
_____	_____

- Get involved in activities at school and in your community (sports, clubs, community service, religious groups, jobs, etc). List the ones that most appeal to you:

_____	_____
_____	_____

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

Your Interests

Career Fields Connected

- Start to look for information about colleges that fit with your interests. The CSP office has books, catalogs, and posters. Or use websites like Cappex.com or CollegeBoard.org. If you find colleges that appeal to you, write them here.

- 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 poems, art, awards, etc.
- Have questions? Reach out to CSP staff. The Manager of College Advising and Admissions, Jacqueline Gaines, is here to help! Jgaines@uchicago.edu