

Transition Timeline



Completing the requirements for graduation takes many years of planning. The following is a checklist of transition activities for grades 9–12 (freshman through senior year). Use this checklist as a guide to follow as you prepare for the transition from high school to the next step of your life. Your skills and interests will determine some of the items on the checklist. Use this checklist to ask yourself about your interest areas, if you are “on track” with your goals, and to determine what support you need from others to achieve your goals. There are blanks to add your own steps at the end of each section.

Grade Nine: Freshman Year

- ☐ Take a learning styles inventory to determine your personal learning style (from Theme 1, Unit 5, Lesson 24).
- ☐ Make up any incompletes in classes.
- ☐ Take a career/vocational assessment inventory (from Theme 3, Unit 15, Lesson 87).
- ☐ Complete a comprehensive assessment of your skills (see www.onetonline.org/skills and www.careerinfonet.org/skills).
- ☐ Share the results of your learning styles inventory, your vocational assessment, and your ability assessments with someone such as your high school counselor, American Indian advocate, teacher, or diagnostician and discuss what you have learned about your strengths and weaknesses.
- ☐ Begin exploring postsecondary options in your interest areas. (Search the Internet; ask your high school counselor or American Indian advocate.)
- ☐ Join cultural organizations as well as academic-related clubs.
- ☐ Visit college campuses whenever you have the opportunity (with family members if possible).
- ☐ Broaden your experiences with community activities.
- ☐ Take a study skills course.
- ☐ Learn to use the library.
- ☐ Take care of your health.
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Grade Ten: Sophomore Year

- ☐ Learn how to advocate for yourself to ask for the help you need in an appropriate way (from Theme 2, Unit 8).
- ☐ Practice describing your strengths and challenges in school and out of school (from Theme 1, Unit 5, Lesson 22).
- ☐ Visit college campuses whenever you have the opportunity.
- ☐ Attend college fairs.
- ☐ Attend career fairs.
- ☐ Set goals for your life after high school.
- ☐ Continue to explore postsecondary options.
- ☐ Schedule a meeting with your high school counselor and/or American Indian advocate to discuss your career interests/goals and to determine the courses that will help you prepare for postsecondary education/training.
- ☐ Broaden your study skills techniques.
- ☐ Practice assertive self-advocacy skills.
- ☐ Take care of your health.
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- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Grade Eleven: Junior Year

- ☐ Check your high school credits early in the year with the counselor. Discuss your postsecondary plans with the counselor.
- ☐ Write, search the Internet, or call postsecondary schools of interest.
- ☐ Visit postsecondary schools. Ask specific questions that pertain to your interests and needs. For example, does the school have a degree plan for your area of interest or do they offer first generation scholarships? Does the school have an American Indian Culture Center or do they offer American Indian Scholarships?
- ☐ Take courses you need based on your college visits. Continue to take classes in content areas that will prepare you for postsecondary school.
- ☐ Get a job, complete an internship, mentor, or participate in a service learning experience in an area of interest for you.

- ☐ Find out if there are waiting lists for the school/s or programs you are interested in.
- ☐ Learn about financial aid. Find out what college funding/resources are available from your tribe.
- ☐ Take the college entrance exams required for the school/s you are interested in (ACT or SAT).
- ☐ Take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) assessment.
- ☐ Learn about any community services that are available to you as a college student.
- ☐ Get your driver's license.
- ☐ Make sure you have your tribal enrollment information and your social security card.
- ☐ Continue to broaden your study skills techniques.
- ☐ Practice assertive self-advocacy skills.
- ☐ Take care of your health.
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- ☐ _____
- ☐ _____

Grade Twelve: Senior Year

- ☐ Check your high school credits early in the year with the counselor.
- ☐ Discuss your postsecondary plans with the counselor.
- ☐ Continue to make site visits to schools of interest.
- ☐ Continue to work in areas of interest to you.
- ☐ Take a class at a postsecondary school (evenings, etc.)
- ☐ If you have not taken college admissions testing, take it early in the school year (ACT or SAT).
- ☐ Take the ASVAB (Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery) assessment.
- ☐ Apply for financial aid (FAFSA).

- ☐ Visit your tribal American Indian scholarship counselor and apply for funding for college.
- ☐ Apply to the postsecondary schools you are interested in.
- ☐ Apply for housing early.
- ☐ Select and ask teachers, counselors, or community members to write letters of recommendation for you for college entrance, scholarships, and tribal financial aid.
- ☐ Apply for scholarships.
- ☐ Create an address book of all the important people in your life that you want to remain in contact with and those who will want to know how you are doing when you are away at school (teachers, American Indian advocates, community members, friends, mentors, elders, employers, etc.)
- ☐ Get copies of all important papers from high school to take to college with you (i.e., test results, interest inventory results, aptitude test results, transcripts, etc.)
- ☐ Meet all deadlines for housing (dorms), admissions, and registration for classes for postsecondary school.
- ☐ Continue to practice appropriate assertive self-advocacy skills.
- ☐ Practice independent living skills such as budgeting, shopping, and cooking.
- ☐ If you will need special services at the postsecondary school (such as childcare or tutoring), ask early.
- ☐ Take care of your health.
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