



My Next Steps!

Name (first and last): _____

Read through the list below with your coach, checking off any steps you have already taken. At the end of each year there is a place for notes you may want to remember.

Freshman Year

Have you...	✓
* Met with your school counselor to develop a 4-year plan? A well-rounded, yet manageable course load is very important. Talk to your counselor about taking advanced placement and/or career and technical education courses.	
* Met with your instructors and/or a tutor to discuss any courses you may need help with? It is very important to develop good study habits right away! Every grade counts towards your cumulative grade point average.	
* Gotten involved? Now is the time to begin participating in extracurricular activities, community-based and leadership-oriented activities.	
* Received any awards or recognitions? These will be important to keep track of throughout your high school career.	
* Begun to research careers clusters that may be a good fit for you? Identify which career clusters might be a good fit for what you like and what you're good at. Also look at which jobs in the career cluster you are interested in will be most in demand.	
Notes:	

Sophomore Year

Have you...	✓
* Continued your career research by shadowing or interviewing a professional who works in a career you are interested in? It's important to see for yourself what a job is really like. Shadowing is a great way to do this!	
* Continued your post-secondary research? Some big decisions are on the horizon, and you will want to be as informed as possible when the time comes.	
* Begun your scholarship research? It is never too early to start applying for scholarships!	
* Continued participating in your extra-curricular activities? Post-secondary institutions look at more than just your grades – it is important to have a comprehensive high school portfolio.	
* Talk to your counselor about career specific courses, programs or youth apprenticeship programs your school provides?	
Notes:	

Time to make your plan! Discuss with your coach what your next steps will be. Use the list above to figure out what you still need to work on this school year. Record it here:

Step 1: _____

Step 2: _____

Step 3: _____

You can also plan for the future! Keep adding checks to this list as you go along – at the beginning of every year, write down your next steps.

Junior Year

Have you...	✓
* Met with your counselor again to make sure that you are on track for graduation? A well-rounded course load is very important! Also make sure you meet the admission requirements for any post-secondary institutions you are considering.	
* Attended any college or career fairs? These are great places to talk with real college representatives or career professionals to ask any questions you may have.	
* Talked with your parent or guardian about your post-secondary plans? It is a good idea to have these conversations so that you can have all of the support that you will need.	
* Registered for and taken your ACT test? This is an essential test that you will need to spend some time preparing for as it is required by most post-secondary institutions.	
* Talked with your teachers, coaches, and/or the leaders in your extracurricular activities about reference letters? Most scholarships and college applications will require one or more of these letters to attest to your character.	
* Visited any colleges of interest? Application deadlines are just around the corner – now is the time to get a good feel for a campus or institution that best suits you.	
* Explored careers through volunteering, internships or part-time jobs? This is the perfect time to begin getting some work experience (paid or unpaid) – and a great opportunity to expose yourself to potential career fields!	
Notes:	

Senior Year

Have you...	✓
* Selected a career cluster of interest? This will guide you in making many decisions about what you will do after you graduate from high school. Bonus points if you have researched jobs in your cluster that will be in-demand!	
* Submitted all of your college/post-secondary institution applications? Many institutions require you to submit everything by Halloween, so be sure to plan accordingly!	
* Continued to research scholarships? Many of these will be due throughout your Senior year.	
* Filled out and submitted your Federal Application for Student Aid (FAFSA)? Be sure to complete this by March 1 st of your senior year – you will need to have your parent/guardian assist you.	
* Made sure to keep up with your classes and extracurricular activities? During your Senior year, it will be easy to give in to ‘senioritis’ – but don’t forget! Every credit counts and colleges will check your final transcript!	
* Talked to your counselor or a financial advisor about any financial aid offer letters you have received? Make sure you have a good plan for how you are going to pay for your post secondary education – including how you will pay back any loans you plan to take out.	
* Made a decision? After being accepted, most post-secondary institutions will ask you to decide whether or not you will attend their school in May of your Senior year.	
Notes:	

