



## College and Career Readiness Checklist : 9<sup>th</sup> Grade

Believe it or not, preparing for life after high school starts as soon as you begin at Proviso West! Use this checklist to help you start your planning now to get a strong start on your postsecondary plans.

- Meet with your counselor during your first semester**
  - Your counselor is meant to help you figure out all the tricky things about high school. Meeting them early on will help you get comfortable talking to them and will make it easier for them to guide you through high school.
- Plan your curriculum**
  - Speak with your counselor about your classes. There are some classes the State of Illinois requires you to take, but there is a lot of room to explore potential career options with electives. Check with your counselor during course selection time to see what interests you most!
- Make sure you're getting the best grades possible – As, Bs, and Cs are preferred**
  - The best way to earn scholarship money is to get good grades all through high school. This means attending class, paying attention, and making sure all your homework is done on time. Colleges, universities, trade schools, and scholarship programs will look at all four years of your transcript to determine whether they think you're a good fit for them. Make yourself stand out by doing your best all four years.
    - Good grades are also the best way to ensure you stay on track for graduation. If you find yourself struggling in a class, speak with the teacher. If you're uncertain how to begin the conversation with your teacher, see your counselor for help.
- Get involved with sports, clubs, and service opportunities**
  - High school is a lot of work, but you should make time to have fun, too. Find a few extracurricular activities you really enjoy. Not only will it help you make friends and take a break from school work, but it will also make you stand out to your future colleges and employers.
- Complete all Naviance surveys assigned by your counseling team as soon as possible**
  - We assign Naviance surveys to help you think about your future, whether it's how you study best or what careers you might be interested in learning more about. Getting them done as soon as possible will help you the most.