

College-Readiness Checklist

Only students who score a perfect 100 percent (or check every item) can be considered ready for college. Good luck!

- I like to read.
- I have read a number of *good* books as well as some *important* books. Here is a list of some of them:
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
 6. _____
 7. _____
 8. _____
 9. _____
 10. _____
- I am open-minded and curious about ideas, and I am interested in encountering new ways of looking at the world.
- I read for pleasure.
- I understand that any piece of serious writing will require considerable effort.
- I am interested in becoming a better writer. I understand that I can always improve my writing, no matter how good I may think I am.
- I understand that some of the most important learning I do takes place when I discuss my written work with my teachers.
- I work through “panic” when I get a writing assignment, and I refuse to procrastinate.
- I am able to pace myself to work on assignments for extended periods of time.
- I routinely ask others to give me feedback about my written work in draft stage (this includes parents, teachers, friends, and writing-center tutors).
- I initiate repeated visits to teachers to discuss my work.
- I value intellectual work, collaboration, and validation more than grades.
- I use brainstorming strategies when I begin a writing assignment.
- I produce a working outline for writing assignments and critique it.
- I choose quotations effectively, and I can discuss them thoughtfully.
- I can develop a point of view and maintain a consistent focus when I am writing an essay.
- I always maintain sensitivity to language use.
- I always reread texts I plan to write about, and I interact physically with these texts by underlining and highlighting key passages.
- I am able to conduct library research on my own, and I don't settle for the first items that may come to hand.

- I always revise my work a number of times before I hand it in.
- I am eager to move outward from myself toward a more open and broad-minded engagement with the world and others.
- I understand that listening is an important life skill and an essential college skill.
- I enjoy listening to others, and I bring to all my encounters with others the qualities of patience, empathy, personal generosity, and respect.
- I bring self-discipline, perseverance, and passion to whatever I do.
- I understand what "grit" is, and I understand why it is essential for success in any long-term endeavor like college.
- I understand that the chance to attend college is an opportunity of incalculable value.
- I understand that many students squander this opportunity by drinking, socializing, and taking full advantage of quasi-adult "freedom." I will not be one of these students.
- I understand the value of being involved in my community.
- I have demonstrated my commitment to my community and to community service in the following ways (100 hours minimum):
 1. _____
 2. _____
 3. _____
 4. _____
 5. _____
- I have done community service not because it looks good on my college application, but because this is how I choose to live my life. I choose to be involved with my community, and I choose to spend some of my time "giving back" to my community.