

# The Scholarship Advisement Program's College Planning Road Map

## 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE (Freshman)

### Fall

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- Apply for Choctaw Nation's Scholarship Advisement Program (SAP).
- Get to know your counselors—the ones at your high school *and* at SAP. They will have the inside information on college prep that you will need in the next four years.
- Sign up for Oklahoma's Promise, a tuition aid program.
- Choose a course load that will challenge you—but not overwhelm you. Pick things that suit your personal interests and develop your skills. If you are in a program like Oklahoma's Promise, register for the required courses.
- Find out about the Advanced Placement (AP) and other honors courses at your school. If you are eligible to enroll, do it!
- Start exploring your college options. What schools are out there? Which ones are right for you? Learn about the courses and grade averages that these colleges require for admission.
- Explore college preparation programs for low income or first generation students, such as Upward Bound or Talent Search.
- Start building your student resume. Include details on your education, honors and awards, extracurricular activities, community and tribal involvement, volunteer work, internships, or summer jobs.
- Be involved in your community and your tribe.
- Join the Choctaw Nation Youth Advisory Board for opportunities to serve your community and develop your leadership potential.
- Educate yourself about the SAT and ACT exams. Most colleges require you to take one of these as part of the application process. SAP has great resources to help you, including in-person workshops, online study courses, and textbooks you can borrow.

### Spring

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- Meet with your guidance counselor and make an academic plan for your 10<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Also, discuss a plan of course work for future years.
- Keep your grades up! The Choctaw Nation STAR Program provides incentives to students who maintain good grades and attendance.
- Register for a practice SAT or ACT. If you use a SAP study option, you are eligible to have your exam fees paid by SAP.

- Start a list of colleges that interest you. Begin scheduling campus visits.
- Research and apply to summer activities that can help boost your college readiness, such as SAP's College Prep Camp.

### **Summer**

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- Participate in summer activities that will help boost your college readiness and enrich your education, such as the SAP College Prep Camp.
- Start saving money for college. Sign up for a savings account (a parent or guardian can co-register for one with you) and look for programs that will match your savings, such as the Choctaw Nation Career Development Program's Choctaw Asset Building (CAB) program.
- Find a summer job and start building that new savings account! Ideally, find a job in a field that interests you and will prepare you for the future. (Leadership experience is a big plus, too!) Remember to check with the Choctaw Nation Summer Youth Program to see what positions they have available.
- Balance relaxation with productive activity—study for the ACT/SAT, read, or volunteer at local events.
- Have some fun!

**For more college planning and funding resources and information, please visit [www.choctawnation-sap.com](http://www.choctawnation-sap.com)!**

*This guide brought to you by the Choctaw Nation's*

