

DARLINGTON SCHOOL

PLANNING FOR COLLEGE

NINTH GRADE

1. Begin mapping out your curriculum plan for all four years in the Upper School.
2. Take English, math, science, history, and foreign language classes; if appropriate, take **Honors** and/or **Advanced Placement** classes.
3. Pursue 2-3 **extracurricular activities** which you enjoy; also pursue those out-of-school activities which are important to you (scouts, volunteer work, community service, dance, piano, etc.).
4. Become involved in **leadership roles** in your activities; take advantage of leadership opportunities available to you.
5. Begin to familiarize yourself with general college requirements; browse through the college handbooks in the Felker College Room of Darlington's McCallie-Kennedy Library and check out college web sites.
6. When possible, talk with college representatives who visit Darlington.
7. **Work hard** in all of your classes. **Read more.** This will improve your PSAT and SAT scores!
8. Take the **PSAT** in October for experience with standardized testing and to evaluate your progress.
9. Make **good use of your summer**; get a summer job, go to camp or work as a camp counselor, travel, take a computer course, etc.
10. Make use of **family trips** and **vacations** to take a first look at colleges.
11. Begin using Darlington's **Naviance** program to explore colleges and search for those that seem to match your interests and abilities. You'll be given a password at the beginning of your freshman year.
12. **Parents:** begin **financial planning** for college now! Don't wait! Investigate college costs, savings plans, etc., and begin saving now!