

Is My Child College-Ready?

A practical checklist for parents of 9th–11th graders · The Quasi Box Brainer

Check each item your child has in place. Celebrate every check and use unchecked boxes as a gentle starting point for conversation, not criticism. Score 1 point per check and use the key at the bottom to interpret results.

ACADEMIC HABITS

- ☐ Turns in assignments on time most of the time
Occasional late work is normal. Patterns matter more than perfection
- ☐ Knows how to ask a teacher for help
Has done it at least once this year: email, office hours, or after class
- ☐ Has a basic study system or routine
Flashcards, review notes, study groups. Anything consistent
- ☐ Reads and follows a syllabus independently
Understands deadlines, grading weights, and expectations without reminders
- ☐ Has taken at least one challenging course (AP, IB, dual enrollment, or honors)
Challenge builds confidence for college-level workload

CAREER & SELF-AWARENESS

- ☐ Can name 2–3 subjects or topics they genuinely enjoy
Not just easy classes, ones that spark real curiosity
- ☐ Has heard of at least 3 STEAM career fields beyond doctor and lawyer
Broader awareness leads to better major choices
- ☐ Has taken a career interest quiz or strength assessment
Try the free Quasi Box Career Starter Quiz at thequasibox.com/quiz
- ☐ Can describe one career they would like to learn more about
Does not need a firm plan, just a direction worth exploring
- ☐ Has talked with at least one adult outside the family about their job
Informational awareness from real professionals is invaluable

SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL READINESS

- ☐ Can advocate for themselves in a school setting
Has asked a teacher, counselor, or coach for something they needed
- ☐ Has navigated a disagreement or setback without parental intervention
Resilience is built through small moments of independence
- ☐ Has at least one trusted adult at school (teacher, counselor, or coach)
Social support networks protect mental health in college
- ☐ Can manage basic daily tasks independently
Laundry, waking up on time, managing a basic schedule
- ☐ Has talked openly about stress, anxiety, or overwhelm at least once
Emotional literacy is a college survival skill

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COLLEGE PREPARATION BASICS

- ☐ Knows what a college GPA is and roughly what theirs looks like
Awareness, not perfection is what matters at this stage
- ☐ Has visited at least one college campus (in person or virtually)
Even a virtual tour builds concrete context for decision-making
- ☐ Knows the difference between a 2-year and 4-year college
Both are valid, understanding the options prevents tunnel vision
- ☐ Has looked up at least one college program that interests them
One program page and/or one major description. Curiosity counts
- ☐ Has a counselor at school they have spoken to at least once
If not, that is the most important unchecked box to address first

Score Key — Total your checks:

0–7 — Keep exploring together

8–14 — Strong foundation

15–20 — Well prepared!

Educational Resource Disclaimer

The resources, quizzes, guides, and programs offered by The Quasi Box Brainer are educational tools designed to help students explore STEAM career fields and prepare for the college journey. They are intended as starting points for exploration and self-discovery. **Not as guarantees of college admission, major placement, or professional outcomes.**

Career interest results reflect responses at a single point in time and should be considered alongside guidance from school counselors, educators, and trusted advisors. The Quasi Box Brainer does not provide licensed academic, psychological, or financial advising services.

Full disclaimer: thequasibox.com/disclaimer

Want a personalized plan for your child's college journey?

The Quasi Box Brainer Career Starter Quiz identifies which STEAM fields match your child's strengths in 3 minutes. Free resources and career guides are available at:

thequasibox.com · thequasibox.com/quiz