The Summer Before College

You can use the summer break to prepare for the rigors and time management challenges of college course work with these 5 must-do tasks to accomplish according to U.S. News and World Report.

☐ **Read often**

- Create a list of books, visit the bookstore or public library, and read as often as possible this summer.

- College will likely require you to complete longer and more frequent reading assignments than high school, so it is important to prepare accordingly.

- Consider a novel or short story that you hoped to read, but never found the time to start.

- Check to see if your college has any required summer reading.

☐ **Review academic content**

- It is in your best interest to refresh your knowledge of key high school content.

- If you are aware of your class schedule before the start of the semester, focus on past coursework that applies to these classes.

- Otherwise, review material like math and writing, and you may also benefit from studying content specific to your intended major.

☐ **Strengthen time management skills**

- Time management is key to success in college, and you should begin to practice this skill before you start your first semester.

- You don't need to arrange each second of your day, but create a schedule for certain activities and then follow it.

☐ **Find summer work**

- Getting a job is a wonderful way to learn how to budget your hours and your money.

- If you worked during high school, you are one step ahead. If you plan to work while in college, then this is an excellent chance to ensure you can manage both responsibilities.

☐ **Investigate career options**

- If you have a particular major in mind, investigate the most common careers within that field. Speak with individuals who are involved in such work and try to determine if the career is right for you.

- If you are not certain about a career or major, explore jobs of people you frequently encounter. A significant component of college is preparing yourself for your future career, so use this summer to decide what that future might look like.

- Continue to update your resume.