

COLLEGE INVOLVEMENT

Preparing through the work you already do



You can prepare for college participation while you are still in high school. Start with a responsibility you already have: helping a teacher get materials ready, working a shift, supporting a younger student through an existing program, contributing to a club, or keeping something at home running. Look closely at what the work requires. Then choose one part you can do more thoughtfully, with the right support.

This chapter helps you make that connection without turning every activity into a leadership claim. You will prepare a manageable responsibility, describe your contribution accurately, and compare two real college opportunities before deciding what to explore. The same approach can work at a community college, a residential or commuter university, or a technical program. What is available, and what you can reasonably take on, will depend on your setting.

A position can give you a defined responsibility. A useful contribution can also begin without a position. If you enjoy an activity simply because it is interesting or gives you time with people you care about, that is a sound reason to participate, too.



ABOUT THE SCENARIOS

Maya's students, school, events and results are fictional. Alex and Alex's circumstances are fictional. College information is sourced separately.

WORKED EXAMPLE

A MANAGEABLE FIRST RESPONSIBILITY



Maya's task

Maya helps at an existing, teacher-supervised lunchtime study group. Students sometimes arrive unsure which table is working on their subject. Maya offers to improve the arrival routine for two sessions. The teacher agrees that Maya will prepare a simple subject sign for each table, greet arrivals, and direct questions about assignments to the teacher or the assigned tutor. The teacher will confirm the room, review the signs, and keep any attendance records. Maya will not collect grades or contact students outside the program.

They agree on a small test of usefulness: before each session, the signs must be in place; afterward, Maya will ask the teacher whether the routine helped and what needs changing. This is an observation of a process. They are not claiming that signs improve grades.

For each session, Maya allows 10 minutes to check the materials, 30 minutes for the group, and 5 minutes to put things away and check in. Two sessions require 90 minutes altogether. She adds 20 minutes once to make the signs, giving her a planned total of 110 minutes. Those numbers belong to this example, not to a standard tutoring commitment.

After the first session, the teacher points out that the signs are difficult to read from the doorway. Maya enlarges the text. After the second, she gives the teacher the editable sign file and a short setup note. Her responsibility has a beginning, a review, and a usable handoff. She can explain both the work and the correction she made.

Each session	Min
Check materials	10
Study group	30
Clear + check in	5
Session total	45
Two sessions	90
Make signs once	20
Planned total	110



planned minutes in total

These numbers belong to this example. They are not a standard tutoring commitment.

COMPARE COLLEGE OPTIONS

Kankakee Community College

Alex is a high-school senior considering Kankakee. Alex likes science, has helped prepare materials for a teacher, and also wants to understand how student concerns reach college staff. Alex expects to commute and continue a part-time job. Because a college timetable is not yet settled, Alex is comparing possibilities rather than committing to a weekly role.

Official information checked October 2, 2026; this example does not assure eligibility.

What to establish

STEM Club

Student Advisory Council

Published information

The college describes interests in science, study, academic opportunities, and professional awareness, and lists an advisor.

The page describes student representation and programming support. For 2026–27, applicants must be enrolled in at least six semester hours and have at least a 2.25 GPA. It lists meeting dates and an advisor.

Still needs a local answer

The reviewed listing does not establish a current meeting time, total participation costs, entry requirements, or a first-year task.

The page does not establish meeting times, the full workload or costs, or how a new student without a college GPA would be considered. Alex therefore cannot assume eligibility.

A possible next step

Ask the advisor about an introductory meeting and one clearly defined task. Preparing materials could use Alex's experience, but this is a proposal, not an advertised opening.

Ask Student Life how first-term eligibility works and whether interested students may observe or contribute without council membership.

The comparison has not produced a winner. It has produced better next steps. Alex will check the answers against study time, work, and travel once a timetable is available. If either option requires time or money that does not fit, Alex can pause, ask about alternatives, or choose another way to participate.

Sources: KCC Clubs; KCC Student Advisory Council. Recheck current local information.