



College Prep Timeline

K-5th Grade

- Read, Read, Read.
- Make school a priority with good attendance and a positive attitude
- Create good study habits
- Participate in extracurricular activities
- Make regular stops at your local library
- Visit colleges: watch a game, walk the campus, stop by the bookstore

6th & 8th Grade

- Take challenging and interesting classes to prepare you for high school.
- Develop good study habits. Ask your teacher for tips.
- Set up short, medium, and long term goals. Write them down and reach them.
- Volunteer in your community. Become involved in your school.
- Take interest and skills assessments to help you think about possible careers.
- Create a tentative high school class plan.
- Enroll in a summer enrichment program.
- Do your best on standardized tests. Review them upon return.

9th & 10th Grade

- Take the most challenging courses you can handle.
- Continue to develop new study habits for higher level thinking.
- Retake interest and skills assessments to see if career possibilities have changed.
- See if your school requires the PLAN to prepare for the ACT.
- Stay involved in your community and school.
- Use your summer wisely: Work, volunteer, or take summer courses.
- Sign up to earn college credit during your junior year through Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, Postsecondary Enrollment Options or College Classes in your school.
- Keep a list and binder of your awards, honors, paid or volunteer work, and extracurricular activities. Consider participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts and science.

11th Grade

FALL

- Make a list of possible colleges.
- Attend college fairs and college-preparation and financial aid presentations.
- Explore careers and their earning potential through research, work study, internship programs and personal interviews.
- Register to take exams for college admission. SAT, Reasoning Test, SAT subject Tests, and the ACT. Many schools offer ACT during school hours.
- Retake interest and skills assessments to see if career possibilities have changed.
- Investigate the type of education needed for your possible career choice
- Stay involved in your community and school.
- Keep a list and binder of your awards, honors, paid or volunteer work, and extracurricular activities. Consider participating in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts and science.

WINTER

- College Visits
- Continue to narrow your list of colleges based on research and visits.
- Prepare athletic DVD, recruitment form, email coach and invite to games.
- Prepare Art, Music, Theatrical CD or DVD, recruitment form, invite directors to performances.
- Retake your ACT. Most colleges “Super Score” taking your best score from each section.
- Take time to review your first test and study!
- Create a resume and/or electronic portfolio.
- Ask for letters of recommendation from teachers, employers, or coaches.

SPRING/SUMMER

- Meet with your school counselor to be sure you are meeting all graduation requirements.
- Register to retake the ACT in the summer or fall if you did not meet the requirement for the college of your choice.
- Continue to narrow your list of colleges based on research and visits.
- Visit with your top colleges. Meet with admissions, talk with coaches, music directors, instructors, and sit in on classes. Stay the night with friends that attend.
- Apply for grants and scholarships.
- Use your summer wisely: Work, volunteer, or take summer courses.
- Prepare generic essays for applications & scholarships. Prepare interview skills.

12th Grade

FALL

- Retake the ACT if necessary.
- Make your final selection of 3 or 4 colleges. Make a list of application deadlines for each.
- Apply to the colleges you have chosen. Prepare your application carefully!
- Well before your application deadlines have your counselors and teachers submit the required documents (e.g. transcripts, letters of recommendation)
- Search and apply for scholarships and other generic financial aid.
- Attend financial aid night if you need a review.
- Prepare to apply for FAFSA by creating a user name and ID by following this link <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/fafsa/filling-out/fsaid#how>. Your parents should also create a username and password.
- Apply for FAFSA at www.fafsa.ed.gov as soon after October 1st as possible.
- Apply for scholarships offered by the colleges to which you have applied.

SPRING

- Have your final high school transcript sent to colleges to which you've applied.
- Review your college acceptances and compare colleges' financial aid packages.
- Make your final decision and make the college aware of your commitment.
- Submit any required financial deposit.