

College Timeline

Fall of 9th Grade

- Remember you are building a transcript that will determine where you get to go to college. Make the best grades you can - they all count!
- Get involved in one or two school activities; plan to stay involved throughout high school.
- Think of volunteer and community service involvement you can commit to.

Spring of 9th Grade

- Work with your academic advisor to develop a 4-year plan that will allow you to complete your desired endorsement.
- Keep working to get the best grades you can.
- Stay involved in activities and plan community service work for the summer.

Fall of 10th Grade

- Register to take the PSAT as a practice round. This test takes place in October.
- Attend a college fair and begin making a list of schools you are interested in attending.
- Keep working on your grades and continue activities and community service.

Spring of 10th Grade

- Make arrangements to take a PSAT prep course during the summer. In October of your junior year, you will take the PSAT to qualify for the National Merit Scholarship Program.
- Meet with your academic advisor to look more closely at a few colleges that you are interested in to find out what specific requirements they have - such as minimum test scores or particular tests required.
- Keep working on your grades, activities, and community service. Remember that your GPA when you apply to colleges will be based on your first 3 years of high school.
- Plan to visit some college campuses with your parent(s).
- Update your college resume with your academic advisor.

Summer after 10th Grade

- Prepare for the PSAT.
- Take SAT and ACT prep courses.

Fall of 11th Grade

- Make sure you are registered to take the PSAT in October. This is the official test that qualifies you to become a National Merit Scholar.
- Attend college fairs in the area.
- Remember the importance of grades this year - the last year to improve your GPA before sending college applications next fall.
- Make college campus visits with your parent(s).
- Register to take two SATs and two ACTs. These exams are only given six or seven times per year. Make sure you know whether or not your colleges of interest require SAT Subject Tests, and plan accordingly. Plan to begin taking the SAT in January of your junior year.
- Athletes need to register with the NCAA to begin the recruiting process at the conclusion of the sport season junior year.
- If you plan to apply to a college that will require a portfolio of some sort, find out the deadlines for submission. (visual art, musician, thespian)

Spring of 11th Grade

- Take the SAT and ACT
- Update your college resume with your academic advisor.
- Choose teachers to request to write letters of recommendation for you. Ask teachers at least two weeks in advance of when you need a letter of recommendation. Remember that the letter will be more favorable if it is not rushed.
- Keep your grades up!

Summer Before 12th Grade

- Know your GPA for college applications.
- Decide which colleges to send applications.
- Work on college application essays.
- Make campus visits with your parent(s).

Fall of 12th Grade

- Send in all college applications by October 1st.
- Send follow-up information to your colleges as it is allowed. Check your college rules on this.

Spring of 12th Grade

- Notify all colleges where you were accepted of your intent to decline or accept their offer by May 1st.
- After graduation, request a final transcript to send to your college.
- Look into clubs, organizations, and leadership opportunities that requires additional applications or commitments prior to the start of your freshman fall semester.