

# COLLEGE PLANNING TIMELINE

*for High School students & parents*

## FRESHMAN YEAR

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- Get organized, start using a planner and learning how to manage your time dedicated to both schoolwork and extracurriculars.
- Get Involved. Choose extracurricular activities that you enjoy! If you don't already belong to a high school club/organization, try something new or attend a meeting with a friend.
- Keep your grades up. Colleges will consider your high school record as a whole.
- Talk with your friends and family about their career paths to generate ideas and inspiration.

## SOPHOMORE YEAR

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- Appropriately challenge yourself in at least one academic area, if possible. Take advantage of opportunities to earn college credit in high school by enrolling dual credit/AP courses.
- If offered by your school, you may have the option to take the PSAT (Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test) and/or a practice ACT.
- Consider taking a career aptitude test to explore careers that may be a good fit for your talents and interests.
- Student athlete? Familiarize yourself with NCAA academic eligibility requirements.

## JUNIOR YEAR

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- Schedule an appointment to create your college plan with your parents and school counselor.
- Attend various college fairs, information sessions, and college tours to do your research and create a preliminary list of schools that you may be interested in.
- Research potential scholarship and financial aid possibilities through your high school and community.
- Take the PSAT during the fall of your Junior Year offered at your high school.
- Take a college admission exam, ACT or SAT.
- Consider a summer exploration program at a college or university to experience college life and investigate potential majors/careers.

## SENIOR YEAR

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- Narrow and finalize list of colleges and be prepared to have applications complete in late fall. Most deadlines range Oct-Dec.
- Apply for scholarships through your schools, local community and national networks.
- Retake your ACT/SAT if necessary.
- Fill out the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) which opens on or before Dec.1
- Deadlines are firm, be sure to send in deposits for housing, financial aid and enrollment on time.
- Notify the school that you will be attending (by May 1st) and decline offers you won't.
- Enjoy your senior year and finish strong! Congratulations, you did it!