

# College Timeline



Explore your interests – now's the time to test the waters.  
Create an academic and activities plan.  
Look for summer volunteer opportunities.  
Take a practice ACT and SAT.

FRESHMAN/  
SOPHOMORE  
YEAR

SPSH Coaching can provide strengths, aptitudes, and interests coaching to help you create an academic and activities plan for high school.



Volunteer or work.  
Think about what you want in a college.  
Build relationships with your teachers.  
Visit local colleges.  
Practice for the ACT or SAT.

JUNIOR YEAR-  
SUMMER/FALL

College Financial Prep and SPSH Coaching can create a customized list of schools to visit and application strategy. This list will be strategically prepared and include those schools more likely to offer merit aid.



Take the ACT or SAT.  
Create your senior year class schedule.  
Ask 2-3 teachers for recommendation letters.  
Look for summer jobs, internships, volunteer opportunities.  
Seek out leadership roles for senior year.  
Visit colleges.  
Consider colleges and costs and if your family has any extenuating circumstances (such as divorce or job loss.)

JUNIOR YEAR  
WINTER/SPRING



Work, intern, and/or volunteer.  
Visit colleges.  
Refine your college criteria.  
Plan your college list strategically!  
Decide which schools you will apply to.  
Consider majors, size, location, costs and more.  
Start your applications.  
Write "The Essay".

SENIOR YEAR  
SUMMER

Summer/Fall: College Financial Prep and SPSH Coaching will create a balanced list of schools to apply to. SPSH Coaching will assist you with your applications and essays and help you prepare for interviews.  
Fall: College Financial Prep will assist you with the FAFSA and CSS Profile, creating a financial plan based on your family's needs and submitting items for verification to the colleges.  
Spring: College Financial Prep and SPSH Coaching will help you compare your offers, offer financial analysis, and file appeals.



If necessary, take a final ACT or SAT.  
Gather items needed for FAFSA and CSS Profile.  
Financial aid forms open October 1.  
Submit EA/ED applications.  
Submit RD applications.  
Provide verifications to colleges as requested.

SENIOR YEAR  
FALL/WINTER



Receive your decisions and financial aid awards.  
Analyze your financial offers and file appeals.  
Decision Time: which schools best match your criteria?  
Make your decision and send in your deposit by May 1.  
If necessary, apply for loans.

SENIOR YEAR  
SPRING