

Preparing For College Timeline

FRESHMAN/ SOPHOMORE YEAR

Explore your interests - now's the time to test the waters.

Create an academic and activities plan.

Look for summer volunteer opportunities.

Drive through college campuses.

Take the PSAT if eligible.

Take a practice ACT and SAT.

Track your awards and activities.



JUNIOR YEAR SUMMER/FALL

Volunteer or work.

Think about what you want in a college.

Build relationships with your teachers.

Visit local colleges.

Take the PSAT.

Prepare for the ACT or SAT.

Create your resume.



JUNIOR YEAR WINTER/SPRING

Take the ACT/SAT.

Ask 2-3 teachers for recommendation letters.

Look for summer jobs, internships, volunteer positions.

Seek out leadership roles for senior year.

Update your resume.

Visit colleges.

Refine your college criteria. Consider academic, social, and financial fit plus size and location.



SENIOR YEAR SUMMER

Work, intern, and/or volunteer.

Update your resume.

Visit colleges.

Decide on your college criteria.

Plan your college list strategically.

Decide which schools you will apply to.

Start your applications.

Write "The Essay".



SENIOR YEAR FALL/WINTER

If necessary, take a final ACT/SAT.

Gather items needed for FAFSA and CSS Profile.

Financial aid forms open October 1.

Submit EA/ED/REA applications.

Submit ED 2/RD/Rolling applications.

Provide verifications to colleges as requested.

Apply for scholarships.



SENIOR YEAR SPRING

Receive your decisions and financial aid awards.

Analyze financial aid offers. File appeals.

Attend Admitted Students Days.

Determine which schools best match your criteria.

Make your decision and send in your deposit by May 1.

Notify guidance of your decision.

If necessary, apply for loans.



AFTER MAY 1ST

Send your AP scores.

Register for orientation and fall classes.

Sign up for payment plan/pay fall tuition.

Pack.

Prepare to head off on the next stage of your journey.

