



2017-2018 COLLEGE PLANNING NOTES



Freshman Year

- ❖ List your likes, dislikes, interest and activities. Begin a resume with activities and interests.
- ❖ Plan your high school curriculum with college in mind. Remember that final grades for ninth through twelfth are listed on the transcript.
- ❖ Commit to volunteer, extracurricular and summer activities for all 4 years.
- ❖ Read beyond school assignments for increased critical analysis.
- ❖ Begin college research. Explore school websites.
- ❖ Visit colleges whenever possible.

Sophomore Year

- ❖ Concentrate on your academic performance.
- ❖ Continue volunteer and extracurricular activities. Update your résumé.
- ❖ Prepare for and take the PSAT in October. Review your incorrect responses.
- ❖ Visit colleges with siblings and parents. Continue exploring colleges on websites.
- ❖ Begin to discuss college and financing college with parents.

Junior Year

Remember: this is the last full year of grades that will be on the transcript that is sent to colleges.

- ❖ Visit with at least three college representatives when they visit your school in the Fall.
- ❖ Visit colleges—Winter and Spring breaks are good times to tour campuses.
- ❖ Prepare for the PSAT. Take the PSAT in October. Review your incorrect responses.
- ❖ Take the SAT Reasoning and Subject Tests in the Spring (May and/or June).
- ❖ Attend "College Night" at various venues in the Fall. Continue online research of colleges.
- ❖ Narrow your list to 6-10 schools. Begin thorough research of schools.
- ❖ Make plans for a productive Summer before senior year. Study for SAT and ACT exams. Do something unusual (work, volunteer, create, etc.).
- ❖ By Spring of Junior year, ask two teachers/administrators to provide a recommendation for your applications. Provide them with a copy of your resume.
- ❖ Make sure you have an email address. Check your email daily.

Senior Year

- ❖ Begin the Summer by filling out the Common Application form. This will help when you complete the Common Application online.
- ❖ Review the essay questions and begin to write your essay. Have someone review your essay, but do NOT pay someone to write it! Seeing a few mistakes actually demonstrates integrity in that you did it yourself.
- ❖ Attend your school's College Prep events, where a lot of college information is provided.
- ❖ Prepare for the SAT and ACT over the Summer. Review your Algebra I & II and Geometry. The test are geared more at that level.
- ❖ Register for the August, October and/or November SAT Reasoning or Subject Tests and September ACT Test.
- ❖ Update your résumé. Schedule an appointment with your college advisor.
- ❖ Attend Senior lunch meetings and attend College Night programs for Seniors and parents.
- ❖ Visit with college representatives when they visit in the Fall. Make final college visits.
- ❖ Research scholarship and financial aid options.
- ❖ Ensure transcript requests submitted and Letter of Recommendations complete.

OCTOBER

1. Request suggestions and review of college essay(s).
2. Take SAT/ACT practice tests.
3. Complete the SAT Reasoning or Subject Tests and/or ACT.
4. Register for the December SAT or ACT if desired.
5. Work on applications. Pay close attention to financial aid deadlines for ED/EA (Early Decision/Early Action).

NOVEMBER

1. Complete the SAT Reasoning and/or Subject Tests.
2. Register for the January SAT, if desired.

DECEMBER

1. Complete the SAT Reasoning and/or Subject Tests.
2. Encourage parents to attend Financing College Night.
3. Receive ED/EA notifications; if applicable, withdraw other applications..
4. Application process should be complete by Dec. 4th.
5. Begin collecting information to complete the FAFSA/CSS Profile.

JANUARY

1. File FAFSA and other financial aid paperwork as soon as possible; note individual schools' deadlines.
2. First semester grades are sent to colleges.
3. Continue the same level of effort and commitment with your academics – avoid senioritis!
4. Complete the SAT Reasoning and/or Subject Tests.

FEBRUARY-APRIL

1. Check your mail and email! College decisions should be arriving for Regular Decision applications.
2. Visit colleges to finalize your decision.

MAY 1 – DECALARATION DAY

1. By this date, you must mail your deposit to the single college of your choice.
2. Notify all colleges that accepted you, but which you will not attend, that you will not be enrolling.
3. Notify College Advisor of your decision, and let them celebrate with you!