



9th and 10th grade

- Plan for college in the classes you choose.
- Watch your grades. Your grade point average begins now.
- Get involved in extracurriculars. Think about "your brand." Who do you want to be in four years? Choose your activities to support your brand.
- Begin an activity resume.
- Consider taking study skills or speed-reading.
- Take the PSAT and SAT II subject tests as you finish the classes.
- Consider attending an academic or athletic camp at a college campus next summer.

11th grade

- Find ways to show leadership, both inside and outside the classroom.
- Start thinking about what kind of school you might want to attend.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October and the ACT in April.
- Choose the academic core teachers you want to write your letters of recommendation.
- Tour some colleges to find out what you like in a campus: large/small, urban/suburban/rural, public/private, liberal arts/research
- Find something cool to do this summer: work, volunteer, do an internship, design your own community service or research project.

Summer before 12th grade

- Explore college websites. Find professors or projects on campus that excite you and make contact with the faculty in charge.
- Visit campuses. Be sure to let the Admissions Office you are there.
- Start your applications ASAP.
- Create a master calendar or some other way to track your applications.
- Brainstorm ideas for essays.
- Consider test prep or test optional schools.
- Decide whether you will apply Early Decision or Early Action.

Senior Year

- Find those leadership positions.
- Make a list of everything you want colleges to know about you. Use the list to make sure your applications are a good representation of you.
- Narrow your list to 4-8 colleges.
- Meet with your school counselor.
- Finish up standardized testing and send score reports to the colleges.
- Finalize your essays and applications.
- Fill out the FAFSA and submit it to your schools.
- Stay active in school.
- Expect acceptance letters and financial aid offers by mid-April. Make your decision by May 1.