

College Planning Timeline

It is in your best interest to plan early for the college admission process. Consult with your school counselor once a year at a minimum to ensure that you are on track for graduation and admissions to the college/university of your choice. The following are some college planning timeline suggestions by grade level.

9th Grade	10th Grade	11th Grade	12th Grade
Meet your Counselor	Consult with your Counselor to ensure your schedule meets your academic needs and interests. If interested in a military academy, start discussing your interest now.	Consult with your counselor to ensure your schedule meets your academic needs and interests. In the spring of junior year discuss your ideas about college and other post-secondary options with your counselor and family.	Meet with your counselor to review your post-secondary plan with your finalized list of schools. Stay organized and know deadline dates. Create a FAFSA ID
Create a four-year plan by choosing courses that are of interest and the appropriate academic level. Earn the best grades that you can.	Update your four-year plan and continue to earn the best grades that you can.	Continue to increase the rigor of your courses and earn the best grades that you can. Learn about majors, colleges and programs that interest you by using Naviance. For athletes, consider registering for the NCAA clearing house or other smaller athletic clearing centers like NAIA.	Continue earning the best grades that you can. Begin applying in the fall and requesting that your transcripts and letters of recommendation be sent to schools of your choice. You may need to follow up with teachers about letters of recommendation. Apply for scholarships and FAFSA and/or CSS profile, if required in October.
Get involved! Join a club or sport.	Stay involved and grow. Volunteer or participate in a service project.	Take on a leadership position in a club or sport that you are passionate about.	Take your leadership to the next level, become president of your club or sports team.
Take ACT Aspire 9 and PSAT 9	Take the PSAT 10 and Pre-ACT.	Take the PSAT/NMSQT, SAT, ACT and SAT subject tests if required.	Take any additional ACT, SAT or SAT subject exams early in your senior year.
Make summer count by volunteering or participating in a service project. Make up any failed courses in summer school.	Attend college fairs. Tour college campuses. Start conversations about financing your college education.	Attend college fairs, visit campuses, estimate financial need, research and organize scholarships that you plan to apply for.	If admission interviews are required, schedule them early. After admission decisions are made, make a plan to visit your top 2-3 schools before making a final decision.
	Make summer count by working, volunteering or making up any failed courses in summer school.	Attend a junior conference with your parent(s)/guardian(s)/counselor. Consider asking teachers for letters of recommendation for college prior to going on summer break. Make summer count- work, save, volunteer or make up any failed courses in summer school.	Share your admission decisions with your counselor and keep track of scholarships that you earn. Stay active if you are waitlisted. Commit to your school of choice on or before May 1st. Graduate from high school! Make summer count- work and save for college. Consult the academic calendar of your college and plan your travel and move-in plans accordingly.