

Sophomore Year

- Meet with your school counselor to review your course load and make sure you are satisfying high school graduation and college entrance requirements.
- Take the PSAT in the fall.
- Continue to explore career interests and information.
- Continue saving for college.
- Participate in academic enrichment programs.
- Choose programs, summer workshops, and camps with a specialty focus such as computers, dance, drama, design, art, sports, media, science, music, etc.
- If you are interested in attending a selective college, register for AP, honors, and advanced courses for 11th grade, if available.

Junior Year

- Meet with your school counselor to review your academic record and strengthen any weaknesses or problem areas and to ensure that you are on track for high school graduation and college entrance requirements. Remember that different colleges have different requirements, so you will need to check with specific schools as you become interested in them.
- Enroll in honors, AP, and advanced courses, if possible.
- Take SAT preparation courses, or study for the SAT and/or ACT
- Attend college fairs and college planning sessions with your parent or guardian.
- Attend financial aid information sessions at your high school or local college.
- Research specific schools: Check admissions requirements against your credentials and begin to determine realistic choices.
- Visit college campuses and meet with admissions officers. Remember to call ahead for an appointment.
- Watch for open house events at colleges you would like to visit.
- Continue saving for college and researching financial aid opportunities.
- Find out schedules and get registration forms for standardized tests, such as the PSAT, SAT and ACT.
- Take the PSAT in October (it's required for several national scholarships and is especially important for National Merit Scholarships).
- Student athletes should talk with their coaches about procedures to indicate interest in college-level athletics.
- Register for the SAT.
- Register for and take the ACT
- If you have a clear "first choice" college, decide if you are going to apply for early decision or early action. Be aware that if you are accepted for early decision, you are likely committing yourself to attend that school.
- Select courses for your senior year that strengthen your academic record and ensure that you meet College Entrance Requirements.
- Identify and ask teachers to write a letter of recommendation for your college applications and scholarships.
- Take the Advanced Placement exam for any AP course you have completed. If you score well, you may receive college credits.
- Check your transcript at the end of the year to make sure it is correct.
- Use spring break or summer vacation to tour college campuses. Have questions prepared in advance and take notes on your visits.
- Explore careers by taking a summer job or internship in your field of interest.

Senior Year (Fall Semester)

- Attend scheduled individual senior meeting to go over courses with your school counselor to make sure you are meeting high school graduation and entrance requirements for the colleges that interest you and discuss other college information.
- In early September, register for the SAT or ACT, if needed.
- Continue saving for college.
- Search and apply for scholarship money by [checking the NAFO Scholarship Scoop](#) and financial aid information pages, and other financial aid websites.
- Contact teachers, counselors or references to write letters of recommendation for you, if needed.
- Attend college fairs, college planning sessions, and financial aid information sessions.
- Visit college campuses that are a good match with your credentials and career interests.
- Narrow your choice of colleges. Many students select three to five schools to apply to - their "dream" school, their "safety" school, and two to three other choices.
- Check with the financial aid office of schools you are applying to for:
 - specific information on scholarships and costs for tuition, fees, room and board;
 - any institutional or additional financial aid forms (such as CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE) that may be required.
- Double-check your transcript to make sure all the information is correct.
- Have your official high school transcript sent to schools where you are applying.
- Apply for early decision/early action programs if you have a clear first-choice college.
- Complete the [FAFSA](#) (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as close to October 1 as possible
- Student athletes should send their transcript to the NCAA Clearinghouse for eligibility certification.

Senior Year (Spring Semester)

- If you have taken college level courses during high school (Fast Forward, community college classes, etc.), have those transcripts sent to schools where you are applying.
- If you are planning to attend a community college, take the ASSET, COMPASS or Accuplacer test.
- Compare acceptance letters for financial aid and scholarship offers.
- Apply for loans, if needed.
- Decide which school you will attend by May and accept their invitation to become a student!
- Pay a nonrefundable deposit for freshman tuition, if required, to hold your spot.
- Complete scholarship forms and declaration forms in May homeroom so that final transcript will be sent.
- After deciding on a school, let the other schools that offered you admission know that you will not be enrolling.
- Take exams for any AP or college level courses you've completed.

