



College Planning Timeline

Freshmen:

Fall

- Map out the classes you'll need to take for the next four years in preparation for college admissions. Take the most challenging course of study possible.
- Join clubs and activities that interest you.
- Start building positive relationships with teachers, counselors, and activity supervisors, so that you can obtain recommendations for college later.
- Select a volunteer organization in which you'd like to be involved.
- Become familiar with the Standardized Tests you will need to take (i.e. OGT, ACT/SAT)

Spring

- Begin to discuss college costs with parents/guardians.
- Apply for summer jobs and volunteer opportunities.

Sophomores:

Fall

- Take the most challenging course of study possible.
- Look for leadership roles in clubs and activities.
- Start thinking about college choices (i.e. in-state vs. out-of-state, close to home vs. far from home, private vs. public, etc.).
- Continue to strengthen relationships with teachers, counselors, and activity supervisors.
- Continue to review Standardized Tests that will be required for graduation and admittance into college.
- Take the PLAN and/or PSAT when it is offered at your high school.

Spring

- Continue discussing college costs with parents/guardians.
- Investigate financial aid options and procedures.
- Apply for summer jobs and volunteer opportunities.

Juniors:

Fall

- Take the most challenging course of study possible.
- Research prospective colleges and potential courses of study.
- Attend college fairs.
- Begin studying for the ACT/SAT.
- Look for scholarship opportunities.
- Take leadership roles in clubs, activities, and volunteer organizations.
- Begin to consider which teachers, advisors, counselors, or employers you might ask for letters of recommendation.
- Explore financial aid options with your parents/guardians.

Spring

- Apply for all available scholarships for juniors.
- Research your course of study, and find the colleges that offer that major.
- Visit prospective colleges during spring break.
- Sign up to take the ACT and/or SAT. **GHS CODE 362-285**
- Create your resume, including academic record, extracurricular activities, and volunteer work.
- Continue discussion of college costs with parents/guardians.
- Apply for summer jobs and volunteer opportunities.

Summer

- Visit prospective colleges.
- Athletes should register with the NCAA Initial Eligibility Clearinghouse at www.eligibilitycenter.org
- Request applications and brochures from your top colleges.
- Take time to prepare for the ACT and/or SAT.

Seniors:

Fall

- Take the ACT – visit www.actstudent.org – GHS code is 362 285
- Take the most challenging course of study possible.
- Narrow down your list of potential colleges.
- Request applications and brochures from your target colleges. Make copies of your application and complete a “rough draft” prior to filling out the actual application.
- Make copies of the applications before you send them. Keep them in order, and be sure to meet all deadlines.
- Schedule college visits.
- Request letters of recommendation from teachers, counselors, advisors, and employers.
- Research scholarship opportunities, and apply for as many as possible.
- Visit **www.finaid.org** to learn more about financial aid.

- Start gathering materials needed to complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), which is available on January 1st of your senior year. Submit all tax information early to maximize the aid you receive.
- Check with your prospective colleges about additional financial aid application requirements.

Spring

- Review college acceptance letters and financial aid packages.
- Compare your admissions offers. Make a decision that is going to be most beneficial to you in the future.
- Make your final decision as to which college you plan on attending, and notify, in writing, the schools you have decided not to attend.
- Pursue student loan options if needed.
- Notify your college of any private scholarships you have earned.
- Notify the guidance office of the college you will be attending, and request that a final transcript be sent.

Summer

- Double-check any final deadlines for housing, financial aid, etc.
- Apply for a summer job and volunteer activities.
- Set up a projected first-year college budget.

○ **Prepare for your future as an adult!**

WEB RESOURCES

Peterson's StudentEdge - www.mystudentedge.com

- Career exploration, college searches, scholarships, college admission info
(Access Code: TJVTWRMT)

March2Success - www.march2success.com

- Created by the US Army, free, no obligation, provides test prep materials

ACT - www.actstudent.org

- Testing dates, registration, ect. **GHS code: 362-285**

FINAID! www.finaid.org

- Free guide to financial aid, Free scholarship searches

FAST WEB www.fastweb.com

- SCHOLARSHIPS!!!!

Federal Student Aid – www.fafsa.ed.gov

- Free Application for Federal Student Aid, apply for pin now

NCAA – eligibilitycenter.org

