



## 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> 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](http://www.mystudentedge.com)

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

**March2Success** - [www.march2success.com](http://www.march2success.com)

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

**ACT** - [www.actstudent.org](http://www.actstudent.org)

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

**FINAID!** [www.finaid.org](http://www.finaid.org)

- Free guide to financial aid, Free scholarship searches

**FAST WEB** [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com)

- SCHOLARSHIPS!!!!

**Federal Student Aid** – [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

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

**NCAA** – [eligibilitycenter.org](http://eligibilitycenter.org)

