

College Planning Guide



This guide will help you anticipate activities you should consider and the deadlines you must meet as you prepare for college. Combined with a daily planner where you record your daily activities, assignments, tests, etc., this guide should serve as a long-term schedule while you are in high school (See Planning and Preparation Process p.32). With your long-range plan always in mind, you will be able to move more easily through the challenging and exciting journey of finding the school that is right for you.

FRESHMAN YEAR

- Meet with your guidance counselor to plan college prep courses for high school (See p.31).
- Learn about college acceptance (Criteria Schools Use for Admission, p.29).
- Set academic goals.
- Become involved in extracurricular activities; seek leadership roles whenever you can.
- Discuss how to pay for your college with your parents (Average Annual College Costs Listed by State, p.19).
- Ask them to read (How much does it cost?, p.18 and Guide for Parents, p.77).
- Start gathering information on career fields that interest you (Career Planning, p.72).

Set up a binder or file where you can keep all supporting documents for the student profile and resume you will need when you apply.

- Courses and grades
- School activities
- School honors and awards
- Community honors
- Work and volunteer experience
- Outline of significant events in your life
- Athletics

SOPHOMORE YEAR

- Register for PSAT/NMSQT and/or PLAN.
- Make a list of features you want in a college (How do I Select a College?, p.8).
- Start searching the Internet for schools that interest you.
- Examine college information resources in guidance and media center.
- Start making a list of schools to examine more carefully (Planning Guide for Selecting Colleges to Look at More Closely, p.13).
- Contact admissions offices and ask for brochures and information (College Information Request Letter, p.14).
- Take PLAN to prepare for ACT (Oct-Dec) (See pp.34-35).
- Take PSAT/NMSQT to prepare for SAT (Oct) (See pp.34-35).

Set up a file where you can keep information on schools you want to consider

May and June

- Meet with guidance counselor; pre-register for challenging college prep courses (See p.31).

June, July and August

- Study for PSAT/NMSQT (See pp.38-40).
- Consider a summer job or volunteer experience in your field of interest.
- For aptitude testing, see your guidance counselor to set up an appointment to take the ASVAB. The most widely used multiple aptitude battery of tests in the world, it assesses academic ability and predicts success in a variety of military and civilian occupations. (See pp.8 and 161)