

Student

College Prep Timeline



Fall semester

- **Take a rigorous academic curriculum**
- Stay involved in extracurricular activities
- Communicate regularly with your school counselor and/or college access advisor
- **Consider and choose your post-high school options: 2-year or 4-year colleges, vocational training, military, or work**
- Register and take the PSAT/NMQST
- **Explore career options/interests**
- Attend college fairs in your area
- Make a testing plan for taking the ACT and/or SAT (if needed)
- **Begin researching colleges**
- Make your list of potential colleges
- **Visit colleges**
- Secure testing fee waivers (if eligible)
- Discover what College planning resources are available at your school
- Get good grades

Spring semester

- **Organize your college research**
- Attend college fairs
- Begin to narrow your college choices
- **Register and take the ACT and/or the SAT**
- Use ACT/SAT test prep options
- **Attend college information/financial aid workshops**
- **Research financial aid sources and application processes including aid available from your state**
- Use an EFC calculator tool to help estimate your expected family contribution for aid
- Visit colleges
- Select and set up scholarship search option(s)
- **Get your FSA ID for the FAFSA**
- Schedule rigorous senior year courses
- Select teachers as future recommendation letter authors
- Apply for a summer job
- Get good grades

Summer prior to senior year

- **Help parent(s) set up FSA ID for FAFSA**
- Visit colleges
- Narrow college choices
- **Identify admissions and financial aid priority deadlines for final college list**
- Build a resume of high school activities and accomplishments
- Register with NCAA Clearinghouse (if needed)
- Start admissions application essay(s)