

College Advising Plan Grades 9-12

9th Grade

- **Find and join extracurricular activities:** Join the on-site clubs, sports teams, community service or volunteer. Look for something that interests you! Start documenting on your activity list!
- **PSAT in October.** No need to study for this first time but take a look at the examples to feel comfortable with the test.
- **Get a notebook:** start keeping track of accomplishments to be updated yearly and used for college applications, essays, and letters of recommendations. Take some notes on the colleges that visit with the representative's card/name and put in your file.
- **Concentrate on doing well in your classes:** keep up your grades.
- **Learn about yourself- take assessments (February):** to determine strengths, learning styles and aptitudes. Activities include: online assessments at <http://www.mi-career.com/>
- **Plan summer experiences:** Research and visit at least two colleges - a large public university and a small private college. Research and participate in academic programs, jobs, and volunteer or work opportunities in the summer.

10th grade

- **Focus on "What Are My Interests?"(September/October):** to determine interests and find out what options are available. Activities include: <https://www.unigo.com/search/findacollege.aspx>, <http://www.collegeview.com/collegesearch/index.jsp>
- **PSAT Testing (October):** Prepare through Khan Academy. Do the practice tests!
- **Start thinking about college match and fit and explore college options.** Start planning summer visits to colleges- what to look for...size, location, feel, major, etc. Use sites such as: <http://www.collegeview.com/collegesearch/index.jsp> or <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search>
- **Sophomore Assignment (May/June):** Assesses your progress halfway through high school and halfway to college. You will be given a copy of the Common Application to start completing portions with information that you already have. Look at you GPA and extracurricular activities thus far and set goals to fill in the gaps.
- **Summer-** start studying for the SAT/ACT, also SAT Subject tests for certain majors and colleges. Research to see if your list includes colleges that need the subject tests. Use Khan Academy!

11th grade

- **College Admission Representative Meetings (September-December):** Admission representatives visit to give information regarding admission to their college/university. Important to attend at least three.
- **Continue prepping for the PSAT/NMSQT (Test in October)-** This year you can qualify for National Merit Scholarship.
- **Focus on "Where Do I Go From Here?"(December-February):** Meet with college advising to determine what is needed to plan for the future. Activities include: start working more on your resume, goal setting, career exploration and College Major exploration. Develop a list of colleges using <http://www.campusexplorer.com/> or <https://bigfuture.collegeboard.org/college-search> . Research these colleges and fine tune the list.
- **Sign into College Planner Pro Program-** start organizing college list!
- **Financial Aid Night with students and parents (September/October):** Financial aid expert from a local college speaks to students and parents, gives an overview of what is needed, the steps in the application, and answers questions. Financial Aid night in December presented by Thrivent.

- **Submit completed Junior Questionnaires (January/February):** Forms handed out before winter break and also emailed.
- **Standardized testing (spring):** Juniors need to register and take the ACT and/or SAT by the spring of junior year. Spend time each week studying!! Study over the summer if you need to retake in the fall of senior year.
- **College advising meeting (March):** Meet to discuss college choices; re-visit college lists. A list will be given to you of possible matches based on student and parent questionnaires and previous meetings. Research the schools on the list provided to you.
- **Summer assignment:** research/visit if possible at least five colleges- bring form in for senior meeting in August. Before making decisions continue to visit colleges. Fill out brag sheets. Work on the Common Application- it is online for the next application cycle August 1st. Research scholarship opportunities through search sites such as <http://myscholly.com/>

12th grade

- **College Application Work Days: (August-before school starts):** Work on applications, essays, college search.....
- **Senior Meeting (August/September):** Meet individually to discuss college choices, deadlines, SAT/ACT scores & retaking, ensure transcripts are accurate. Review folder of accomplishments, extracurricular activities and resume. Letter of recommendation request forms are given out and follow up that brag sheets are complete for teachers/college advisor. Discuss if planning to apply for EA/ED.
- **Applying ED/EA (September):** Students that are applying for EA/ED need to set up a meeting to ensure all paperwork is done on time. Have test scores sent to your Early Decision/Early Action and Rolling Admissions Schools.
- **College Admission meetings for seniors and parents (September/October):** Check in on where you are in the process. Help with any issues with online applications, create a timeline, and answer questions.
- **Essay and Common Application Help (September/October/November):** Work at lunch-time or during study hall on essays and applications. Also available before and after school.
- **UC Application (October/November):** Come in during lunch, study hall, or after school to work on the application and get questions answered. You can also email Mrs. Bacon as you are working at home and I will answer your questions. Requires Personal Insight Questions but no letters of recommendation.
- **CSU College Application: (October/November):** Opens October 1st, come in or email questions. Doesn't require an essay or letters of recommendation.
- **Financial Aid Night with students and parents (October/November):** Financial aid expert from a local college will speak to students and parents, give an overview of what is needed, the steps in the application, and answers questions. Also, additional financial aid presentations and individual meetings.
- **Receive College Admission Decisions (March & April)**
- **Take AP Exams (May)**
- **Make College Selection & Submit Deposit by May 1st.**
- **Graduation!!**