

FRESHMAN YEAR Planning Guide



CREATE A FOUR-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL PLAN.

- Think about what you'd like to accomplish in the next four years.
- Make sure you know which high school courses are required by colleges, and that you're taking the right classes as early as the ninth grade. You can ask your counselor about what those "right" classes are.
- Get to know the levels of courses offered by your school.

START THINKING ABOUT YOUR LIFE AFTER SCHOOL, INCLUDING THE JOBS THAT MIGHT INTEREST YOU.

- Of course, these will change — often — but it's good to start thinking about the possibilities.
- Identify your interests — likes and dislikes — not just in classes but also in every area. This will help you focus on your goals. Use Naviance Student to explore your interests and possible careers. [Naviance Log in](#)
- Talk to other people, such as your school counselor, teachers, recent college graduates who are working, professionals in the community, etc., about careers you might find interesting.

MEET WITH YOUR HIGH SCHOOL COUNSELOR.

- Your counselor knows how to help you get the most out of high school. Be sure to take some time during the school year to discuss post-high-school plans with him or her.

❑ PARTICIPATE IN EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

- ❑ Academics aren't everything. Explore your interest in a sport, school club, music or drama group, or community volunteer activity.
- ❑ Remember that colleges would rather see real involvement in one activity instead of a loose connection to several.
- ❑ If you're interested in playing sports in college, research the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) eligibility requirements. The NCAA requires completion of certain core courses; you can find the specifics at <https://web3.ncaa.org/ecwr3/>

❑ SAVE FOR COLLEGE

- ❑ It's not too late to put money aside for college. Every little bit helps!
- ❑ Learning about financial aid early on can also help you down the road.

❑ EXPLORE SUMMER OPPORTUNITIES

- ❑ Look for a job, internship, or volunteer position that will help you learn about a field of interest. "

❑ GET FAMILIAR WITH THE PSAT AND SAT.

- ❑ Most four-year colleges consider applicants' scores on college admission test. Download the free Daily Practice for the New SAT app to get a feel for the kinds of questions you might face on test day.
- ❑ Check out the test prep materials available through Naviance Student and begin

studying each day.

