



## 9th Grade Planning Ahead

Meet with your counselor to discuss your college plans. Review your schedule with him or her to make sure you're enrolled in challenging classes that will help you prepare for college.

Remember, you will have more options if you start planning now for college and keep your grades up.

1. Sign up for college preparatory courses.
2. Start a calendar with important dates and deadlines.
3. Create a file of the following documents and notes:
  - List of awards and honors
4. Get more involved with your extracurricular activities.
5. List of school and community activities in which you are involved, including both paid and volunteer work, and descriptions of what you do
6. Go to college fairs in your area.

## 10th Grade Planning Ahead

Make sure you're enrolled in challenging classes that will help you prepare for college.

Start a calendar with important dates and deadlines.

Continue **extracurricular activities**, as admissions officers look at students' extracurricular activities when considering them for admission.

Continue participation in academic enrichment programs, summer workshops, and camps with specialty focuses such as music, arts, science, etc.

Sign up for the PSAT/NMSQT, which is given in October. Ask your counselor which date is offered at your school. Get free online PSAT/NMSQT practice.

Go to college fairs in your area.

Learn about Colleges

Learn about college costs and how financial aid works.

Sign up for college preparatory courses. Consider AP® courses.

Study for May AP Exams.



# 11th Grade Planning Ahead

**August:** Obtain schedules and forms for the SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Test, ACT, and AP Exams.

**September:** At school, sign up early to take the PSAT/NMSQT® in October.

**October:** Take the PSAT.

**Start Your College Search:** Your list of colleges should contain approximately 8-12 schools you are seriously considering. Start with you: Make lists of your abilities, preferences, and personal qualities. List things you may want to study and do in college.

Jumpstart your college planning by reading about majors and careers.

**November:** Review your PSAT results with your counselor, in order to identify your strengths and to determine the areas that you may need to improve on.

**December:** You will receive your scores from the October PSAT. Depending on the results, you may want to consider signing up for an SAT preparatory course.

**January:** Take Campus Tours online or in person to further narrow your list of colleges to match your personality, GPA, and test scores.

**February:** Visit the SAT Prep Center to take a free full-length official practice test and get a score and skills report.

Register for the March SAT and/or the April ACT Tests. It is a good idea to take your tests in the spring to allow you time to review your results and retake the exams in the fall of your senior year, if necessary.

You can take either the SAT Reasoning Test™ or up to three SAT Subject Tests™ on one test day. Plan your testing schedule carefully if you want to take both types of SAT®. See the SAT schedule of test dates and register online for the SAT.

**March:** Take SAT/ACT

If you are interested in taking any AP exams, you should sign up for the exams at this time. Scoring well on the AP exam can earn you college credit.

**May:** Take SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Test and AP Exams.

**June:** Add any new report cards, test scores, honor, or awards to your file. Visit colleges, some have preview programs that allow you to visit their campus and stay in the dorms.

Take SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Test and AP Exams.

## Summer Between Junior & Senior Years

Review your senior year class schedule with your counselor. Challenge yourself with honors and AP classes and stick with sequences you've begun, in the languages, for example.

Plan summer activities early. Enrich yourself by volunteering, getting an interesting job or internship, or signing up for special summer learning programs.

Request applications from colleges to which you'll apply. Check important dates; some universities have early dates or rolling admissions. Consult the College Application Calendar and the Financial Aid Calendar for a basic idea of the applications timeline.

# 12th Grade Planning Ahead

## **Make a master calendar and note:**

Test dates, fees, and deadlines

College application due dates

Required financial aid applications and their deadlines

Recommendations, transcripts, and other necessary materials

Your high school's deadlines for application requests, such as your transcript

Ask for recommendations.

Write application essays and ask teachers, to read first drafts.

Keep copies of everything you send to colleges.

Talk to your counselor about CSS/Financial Aid PROFILE® and learn about it with Completing the PROFILE.

**September:** Register for October/November SAT Reasoning Test, SAT Subject Test, and ACT tests.

Take another look at your list of colleges, and make sure that they still satisfy your requirements. Add and/or remove colleges as necessary. Narrow your list of colleges to between 5 and 10.

Give any recommendation forms to the appropriate teachers or counselors with stamped, college-addressed, envelopes making certain that your portion of the forms are filled out completely and accurately.

Most early decision and early action applications are due between October 1 and November 1. Keep this in mind if you intend to take advantage of these options and remember to request that your high school send your official transcripts to the college to which you are applying.

**October:** Make a final list of schools that interest you and keep a file of deadlines and required admission items for each school.

Take SAT and/or ACT tests. Have the official scores sent by the testing agency to the colleges/universities that have made your final list of schools. Register for December or January SAT Reasoning Test and/or SAT Subject Test, if necessary.

Begin writing (if you have not already started) any essays to be included with your applications.

**November:** Submit your college admission applications.

**December:** Early decision replies usually arrive between December 1st and December 31st. If you haven't already done so, make sure your official test scores are being sent to the colleges to which you are applying.

**January:** Submit the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) on or after January 1st. Go to the FAFSA on the Web now to complete the form. Or complete a paper FAFSA.

Make sure your parents have completed their income tax forms in anticipation of the financial aid applications. If they haven't completed their taxes, providing estimated figures is acceptable.

Contact the admissions office of the college(s) to which you have applied to make sure that your information has been received, and that they have everything they need from you.

**February:** If you completed the FAFSA, you should receive your Student Aid Report (SAR) within four weeks if you applied via paper. If you applied on-line, you can receive results via e-mail within 3 to 5 days after electronic submission. If corrections are needed, correct and return it to the FAFSA processor promptly.

Complete your scholarship applications.

Contact the financial aid office of the college(s) to which you have applied to make sure that your information has been received, and that they have everything they need from you.

**March/April:** If you haven't received an acceptance letter from the college (s) to which you applied, contact the admissions office.

Compare your acceptance letters, financial aid and scholarship offers.

When you choose a college that has accepted you, you may be required to pay a nonrefundable deposit for freshman tuition (this should ensure your place in the entering freshman class).

**May:** Take Advanced Placement (AP) exams for any AP subjects you studied in high school.

You should make a decision by May 1st as to which college you will be attending and notify the school by mailing your commitment deposit check. Many schools require that your notification letter be postmarked by this date. You must tell every college of your acceptance or rejection of offers of admission or financial aid by May 1. Send a deposit to the college you choose.

**June:** Have your School Registrar send your final transcripts to the college which you will be attending.

Contact your college to determine when fees for tuition, room and board are due and how much they will be.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS: Apply for scholarships throughout Senior year!!!**

### **Summer After Senior Year**

Participate in any summer orientation programs for incoming freshmen.

Now that you know you will be attending college in the fall, it is a good idea to evaluate whether to get student health insurance in case of any unforeseen emergencies or whether your family's insurance coverage is sufficient.



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