

1. Take challenging classes in core academics.
2. Get good grades.
3. Be thinking ahead of what colleges you may want to attend. They may have a higher admission requirement than the Davis School District graduation requirement, especially foreign language.
4. Talk to your counselor about your plan.
5. Take a practice ACT Test.
6. Talk to your parents about how you will finance your college costs.
7. Starting a file for all awards, honors, paid and volunteer work, and extra-curricular activities.
8. Read books.

Student Checklist

How to Plan My Next 4 Years

Sophomore and Junior Year Timelines

What should you be doing in 10th grade?

1. Work hard and get good grades.
2. Take honors and AP classes.
3. Continue to develop and seek leadership qualities through extra-curricular activities and service to your school and community. An in-depth quality experience in one or two organizations is better than just getting your name on the rolls of several.
4. Take the PSAT (National Merit Test) in October.
5. Take a practice ACT test.
6. Consider summer programs for personal enrichment and experience.

What should you be doing in 11th grade?

1. Academic honors and excellent grades continue to be extremely important. Challenge yourself with a hard academic schedule.
2. Extracurricular activity, personal growth and volunteer service combined with work experience are needed both at school and in the community.
3. Gather information about the colleges and universities that you plan to attend. Some good resources include:
 - "Best Colleges" at www.usnews.com
 - Newsweek Yearly College Edition
 - The Princeton Review
 - The Gourman Report
 - The Yearly Fiske Guide
4. Practice writing an ESSAY, work on and develop a strong essay style. Your personal statement is CRUCIAL.
5. Take the PSAT (National Merit Test) in October.

6. Take your ACT and SAT (You may also need an SAT II). Check with your schools to see if they prefer or require the ACT or SAT. Practice and study how to take these tests. (A preparation course would help with strategy and timing). Identify characteristics of colleges that matter to you, i.e., size, academics, location, cost, etc.
7. Start researching scholarships.
8. Calendar deadlines. Know when applications are due. It's a good rule-of-thumb to send in applications, transcripts, and recommendations a month earlier than the due date.
9. Be aware of the "Early Admissions" options for some colleges and universities.

The Summer Between Junior and Senior Year

- Do something meaningful over the summer, such as an internship, a research project, a camp in your area of interest, to give you experience and set you apart from other applicants.
- Seek out a noteworthy experience such as community service, volunteerism, travel or employment.
- Send for applications or go on the colleges internet sites. Ponder essay topics, consider whom you'll ask for recommendations. Also, request letters of recommendation with enough notice for teachers to write them.
- Enter your senior year with three or four schools in mind. Besides your first choice of top schools, consider other excellent schools that are not quite so hard to get into. Do campus visits.
- Talk to your parents about how you will finance your college costs.
- Start looking for scholarships on the Davis School District database.

Senior Year Timeline



According to the 2008 National Survey of Student Engagement, Higher level math classes are the single best predictor of academic success in college. If students take 4 years of math, science and English, 87% will be on-track for graduation in college. If they take less than 4 years, only 62% are on-track for graduation.

September

Plan to work very hard in school. Your grades continue to count.

Collect and complete all college applications. Most applications are submitted on line. Otherwise, application information must be typed or printed in black ink. Neat, attractive, well done applications are high priority.

Write an EXCELLENT essay. Be sure that everything you write is your best effort. Ask an English teacher or other qualified person to review and offer suggestions for improvement.

Continue to research and apply for scholarships.

When you request a letter of recommendation, give the person a resume with your name, birthdate, list of activities, goals etc. Also, be specific regarding what you want. A general character reference is nice, but better is

a specific description of your talents, abilities and accomplishments that this person has observed in working with you. Also, be clear about when it must be mailed and provide a stamped, addressed envelope for them to mail it. Allow plenty of time (4 week minimum) for the person writing the recommendation to do a great job.

As you schedule visits to the colleges you will want to contact faculty and students in the department that interests you.

October

Request your transcripts be sent to the colleges or universities.

Mail early-action or early-decision applications.

November/December

Submit admission applications.

If you are accepted by early-decision, withdraw your applications from other schools.

January

File all federal financial aid forms. Continue to build your financial plan to pay for college.

Ask your high school to send the colleges your mid-year grade report.

Verify that all your application materials have been sent out. Then check with your colleges to make sure they have received everything they require.

February

Continue to do well in school. Your admission is contingent upon your final grades.

April/May

Receive acceptance letters and make your final decision about which school you plan to attend. Formal acceptance is required.

Sign up for orientation/registration as soon as possible. Classes fill up fast.

June

Have your final transcript sent to your new college.

College Campus Visits

School	Contact Information
Brigham Young University	801-422-4431
Dixie State College	435-652-7590
LDS Business College	801-524-8159
Salt Lake Community College	801-957-3913
Snow College	800-848-3399
Southern Utah University	435-586-7741
University of Utah	801-581-8761
Davis College of Applied Technology	801-593-2500
Utah State University	800-488-8108
Utah State University Eastern	800-488-8108
Utah Valley University	801-863-8811
Weber State University	801-626-6050
Westminster	801-832-2200