

Freshman College Planning Timeline

September:

- Begin and continue a thorough self-examination of your abilities and interests.
- Study hard and get good grades. Set your academic goals now.
- Think about careers.
- Try a sport, club, or other activity (the more the unique the better – but something you enjoy)
- Begin your resume
- Read

October:

- Plan and become involved in extracurricular activities, clubs, etc.
- Position yourself for leadership in at least one area.
- Keep up your grades. Be sure teachers know you care.
- READ as much as you can. This has a huge effect on your vocabulary, hence your standardized test results.

November:

- Investigate the kinds of education available: two-year colleges, four-year colleges, universities, professional schools and more.
- What are your college-related goals? Are you interested in the top tier, most selective schools?
- Talk to your counselor about your ideas and ask questions. Get to know them as well as your teachers.

December:

- If not already done, start a checklist of personal preferences in selecting colleges: selectivity, size, location, etc.
- Start your list of 10-12 target schools (it will likely change several times)
- READ over break!
- Fill your spare time with community service, volunteer work and activities (this will go on your college apps)

January:

- Think about college visits.
- Keep up your grades. Freshman year does count!
- READ!

February:

- Visit nearby campuses if you are interested in local schools.
- Keep up your grades. Do extra credit whenever possible. Strive for A's & B's in all classes.

March:

- Put forth your best effort! (improvement counts)
- Plan a challenging schedule for next year. (such as AP classes) Colleges look for indications that each student has tried to take the strongest possible course of study.

April:

- Plan a productive summer – community service, volunteer work, extra classes, sports camp, summer school, unusual experience, job, etc.
- Talk to your counselor about what might help your resume.

May:

- Study hard for final exams.

June:

- Have a fun and productive summer!