

Sophomore College Planning Timeline

September:

- Sign up to take the PSAT. (Good practice for next year when you will be eligible for the National Merit Scholarship competition)
- Consider taking a career assessment test if offered.
- Start or continue your "brag sheet" or resume.
- Maintain good grades; READ! (Sophomore and Junior grades almost always count the most)

October:

- Take the PSAT.
- Attend any college-oriented school meetings.
- Start or continue your resume.
- Get to know your teachers. Be sure they know you are a serious student.
- Research careers using the internet and/or high school resources.
- Talk to adults about their careers. What appeals to you?

November:

- Investigate colleges using internet or books.
- Focus on academics
- Time permitting, fill your resume categories with community service or activities.
- Think about what makes you unique (this may become your "ACE")

December:

- READ! (this can make a BIG difference on your SAT scores)
- Use your holidays to research schools and think about summer opportunities (remember, college apps will ask for some combination of paid employment, clubs, community service, summer programs, activities, honors and awards)
- Talk to older friends about their college experience and what campus life is like at their school.

January:

- Investigate colleges using computer search programs.
- Use your PSAT scores to help indicate what may/may not be realistic for you.
- Also use your PSAT scores to project what test prepping you might want/need to do to reach your goals.
- Research different careers using the internet.

February:

- Search for relevant summer activities that support your "ACE" (unique area of interest, talent, etc.)
- Talk to your counselor about your ideas and ask questions.
- Keep up your grades and do extra credit whenever you can. Show you care.

March:

- Can you start to identify 10-12 target schools? You can modify the list as you go.
- Get the admission stats & download applications for a couple your top schools – see what they expect!
- Register for AP exams if you will be completing an AP class this year.

April:

- Visit some nearby colleges over break.
- Be sure you are in your target schools' databases so you will receive information from them.

May:

- Make use of your summer: (college classes, special programs, community service, job, SAT prep, etc.)
- Prep for SAT II's as needed. (there are books available in every SAT II subject area)
- Study for finals. Keep those grades high.
- Consider Summer School if appropriate or you need to repeat a class.

June:

- Refine your target list of schools and be sure it covers a range of safety to reach.
- Hopefully you've planned a fun and productive summer! Don't forget to READ!