



Good Counsel College Counseling Timeline

FRESHMAN YEAR: First Semester

- Work with your teachers and school counselors to develop strong organizational and study habits for a successful transition to rigorous high school coursework.
- Attend the GC Club Fair: Join clubs and activities that match your likes and interests!
- Establish a relationship with your counselor, teachers and advisor. Be proactive in seeking guidance when you have questions.
- Take the PSAT 8/9 during the fall of freshman year.

FRESHMAN YEAR: Second Semester

- Meet with your advisor to plan your course selection for sophomore year.
- Set up your Naviance account in advisory. Naviance is a student platform providing a mobile accessible way for students to answer the questions that will shape their future: Who am I? What do I want to be? How will I get there? and how will I succeed? The platform delivers the power of Naviance to students' fingertips with intuitive tools that personalize and simplify the college and career planning process. The college counselor and student use Naviance in conjunction to keep the college and career search organized for each student.
- In advisory, complete the MI Advantage Assessment in Naviance to explore learning strengths.
- Explore employment or volunteer opportunities for the summer.

SOPHOMORE YEAR: First Semester

- Participate in extracurricular activities that are enjoyable and not simply resumé builders. Clubs, volunteer organizations, jobs and family obligations are all good ways to spend your time in preparing for college.
- Take the PSAT during the fall of sophomore year.
- Complete the Learning Styles Assessment in Naviance to explore the type of learning environment in which you can be most successful.
- Attend the AP/IB meeting if you are interested in learning more about the International Baccalaureate Program and/or AP coursework.

SOPHOMORE YEAR: Second Semester

- Meet with your advisor to plan your course selection for junior year.
- Attend the Good Counsel College Fair.
- Evaluate your involvement in Good Counsel, and, if lacking, look into opportunities to become more involved.

JUNIOR YEAR: First Semester

- Take a practice ACT test (administered by Capital Educators) during the school day in the fall.
- Take the PSAT/NMSQT in October of junior year.
- Meet with your college counselor to decide if the ACT or SAT is a better fit for you to take in the spring.
- Attend the ACT/SAT Information Meeting with your parents.
- Decide if you are taking the ACT or SAT, and then go to the [ACT](#) website or the [College Board](#) website (for the SAT) to select testing dates and mark your calendar.
- Start practicing on your own for the [ACT](#) or [SAT](#) by visiting the sites and taking advantage of their free tests.
- If you are an athlete planning to play DI or DII sports, meet with your college counselor to make sure you are on track to meet the requirements for NCAA eligibility.

JUNIOR YEAR: Second Semester

- With your parent(s), schedule a meeting with your assigned college counselor to discuss the more detailed aspects of your college game plan and identify schools to which you will apply.
- With the college counselors, discuss the college search timeline (including standardized testing) and learn how to use Naviance as a college search tool.
- Use Naviance to establish a preliminary list of colleges to which you may apply in the fall of senior year. We recommend seven to nine schools.
- Attend the January Junior College Night with your parent(s).
- Meet with your advisor to plan your course selection for senior year.
- Register for the spring [SAT](#) and/or [ACT](#).
- If you plan to take the August SAT or September ACT, sign up for these exams during the summer.
- Start visiting colleges during the second half of junior year and throughout the summer (as is convenient for the family).
- If you are a prospective Division I or II athlete, register with the [NCAA Eligibility Center](#).

SENIOR YEAR: First Semester

- Aim to return senior year with a near-final list of college selections.
- Create a Common Application account (opens August 1).
- Discuss the college application process with the college counselors; this information is covered again during the Senior College Night that parents can attend in September.
- Submit transcript request forms through the counseling office. The counseling office sends transcripts electronically. Please note that transcript request forms must be turned in at least three weeks prior to the admissions deadline.
- Attend the Senior College Night and College Financial Aid Presentation with your parent(s).
- Continue to meet with your college counselor for help with all aspects of the college application process: firming up the college list, assisting with applications, editing essays,

navigating the different application processes, performing scholarship searches, and completing numerous other college-related tasks.

- If you are planning to take the ACT or SAT again at the beginning of senior year, register for either the August or October [SAT](#), or the September or October [ACT](#).
- Make a list of admissions deadlines.
 - In most cases we suggest students submit their applications for early deadlines (usually non-binding Early Action or Priority deadlines).
 - Note that many colleges use November 1 for their early deadline, but some college deadlines may be even earlier.
- Research scholarships available from outside organizations (corporations, community organizations, etc.) in addition to scholarship opportunities available from universities. Visit the Helpful Links for Your Path to College page under College Counseling on our website for ideas.
- Periodically check your student portal (applicant account) for each college. Colleges use these student portals to communicate admissions decisions, as well as to request any needed application or financial aid documents.
- Attend the Senior College Night presentation to learn about college financial aid.
- Remind your parent(s) to fill out financial aid forms required by the college. The FAFSA and CSS Profile forms become available October 1 of a student's senior year. Visit the Helpful Links for Your Path to College page under College Counseling on our website for more information on these forms.

SENIOR YEAR: Second Semester

- Do not develop senioritis! Your chosen college will need your final transcript.
- Continue to check the college portals regularly; financial aid packages are often delivered through colleges' online student portals.
- Decide on the college that is the best choice for you and for your family as a whole.
- Submit your enrollment deposit and commit to a college no later than May 1. May 1 is the national enrollment decision deadline for all colleges.
 - Students who accept admission to a college under a binding Early Decision agreement may be required to submit their deposits earlier than May 1.
 - Students should notify other colleges that they will not be attending in order to free up spaces for waitlisted students.
 - Students should commit by May 1 even if they are waiting to hear about another waitlist offer.
- Inform your college counselors of colleges' decisions and scholarship offers by submitting copies of decision letters or forwarding email or online notifications.
- Inform the college counseling office of the name of the college that you will attend so that final transcripts can be sent after graduation.