## College Counseling Timeline

### 9th Grade

**FALL**
- Create an outline of challenging yet manageable courses for the next four years
- Sign up for extracurricular activities that interest you and plan to maintain commitment to one or two of them for the next four years

**WINTER**
- Start applying for summer enrichment programs, volunteer work, and/or jobs

**SPRING**
- Work hard in your classes; maintain good grades
- Read: it increases your vocabulary
- Remain active in clubs and activities

**SUMMER**
- If you’re on vacation and there is a college or university nearby or an older sibling is looking at schools, stop by for an informal visit to get a sense of what a college looks like
- Attend the summer Junior Jumpstart program in August

### 10th Grade

**FALL**
- Continue to sign up for and participate in extracurricular activities
- Get a sneak peak of the admissions process in the UPrep College Counseling Handbook on our website, https://uprep.us/college (scroll down)
- Take the practice Pre-ACT at UPrep: all sophomores are automatically registered

**WINTER**
- Start applying for summer enrichment programs, volunteer work, and/or jobs; visit https://biy.ly/3Mjgq2h

**SPRING**
- Work hard in your classes; maintain good grades
- Read: it increases your vocabulary
- Remain active in clubs and activities

**SUMMER**
- If you’re on vacation and there is a college or university nearby or an older sibling is looking at schools, stop by for an informal visit to get a sense of what a college looks like
- Attend the summer Junior Jumpstart program in August

### 11th Grade

**FALL**
- Continue participation in extracurricular activities
- Meet with visiting college representatives
- Take the PSAT exam—all students at UPrep are registered automatically
- Attend Junior/Parent/Guardian College Information Night
- Attend the National College Fair and Performing and Visual Arts Fair in Seattle
- Register for May AP Exams (if applicable)
- Attend the optional PSAT test-prep class offered at UPrep

**WINTER**
- Start applying for summer enrichment programs and/or jobs
- Start thinking about the college application process
- Meet with counselor to review academic and non-academic achievements and discuss financial aid
- Register for the SAT and ACT at UPrep school testing days or at a national testing site
- Attend Junior/Parent/Guardian College Information Night

**SPRING**
- Visit colleges
- Take standardized tests: SAT, ACT, and Advanced Placement (AP; if applicable)—we strongly recommend waiting until the second semester of junior year to take these tests
- Plan to participate in a meaningful summer experience; many colleges will ask, *What did you do last summer?* during senior year
- Ask two teachers for letters of recommendation: one from the sciences or math and one from the social sciences or humanities; ask them in person
- Schedule parent/guardian meeting with college counselor
- If you are interested in playing sports in college at the DI or DII level, register with the NCAA Eligibility Center

**SUMMER**
- Attend the optional PSAT test-prep class offered at UPrep

### 12th Grade

**FALL**
- Meet with college representatives
- Attend Senior/Parent/Guardian College Information Night
- Confirm that the two teachers who you asked for recommendations are writing the letters
- Share college essays with college counselor; continue working on college essays and supplements
- If applicable, complete financial aid forms: FAFSA and CSS Profile
- If applying Early Decision (ED), the signed ED Statement of Intent is due to the College Counseling Office
- Take the SAT and/or ACT at a national testing location or during UPrep school testing days
- Register for AP Exams (if applicable)
- Attend the College Application Workshops throughout the fall

**WINTER**
- Continue to work hard in school
- Remain committed to extracurricular activities—all of senior year counts
- You can still research and apply for private scholarships
- Early Decision and Early Action notification

**SPRING**
- Visit colleges formally
- Take UPrep’s free college essay writing summer class
- Participate in a meaningful summer experience
- Fill out the Senior Inventory in Scoir
- Confirm that the two teachers who you asked to write recommendations are writing the letters
- Attend Senior/Parent/Guardian College Information Night

**SUMMER**
- Early Decision and Early Action notification
- Register for AP Exams (if applicable)
- If you have been waitlisted at a school, notify the admissions office that you would like to remain active on the waiting list
- Shop and pack for college
- Remember to take time to spend with your family and friends in a relaxed manner, without talking about college

### Additional Resources
- collegeadvising@universityprep.org
- 206.525.2714
- https://uprep.us/college
HELPFUL WEBSITES FOR THE COLLEGE APPLICATION PROCESS

**UPREP’S WEB-BASED COLLEGE COUNSELING RESOURCES**
- College Counseling Website, [https://uprep.us/college](https://uprep.us/college)
- Scoir, [www.scoir.com](http://www.scoir.com): UPrep’s online college counseling tool
- College Kickstart, [www.collegekickstart.com](http://www.collegekickstart.com): Generate a balanced college list here

**COLLEGE SEARCH WEBSITES**
- YouVisit, [www.youvisit.com](http://www.youvisit.com): Online tours of colleges and universities
- Common App, [www.commonapp.org](http://www.commonapp.org): A common application form used by more than 900 different colleges
- UW Admissions, [https://admit.washington.edu](https://admit.washington.edu): Admissions information for the University of Washington
- United Fund, [https://uncf.org/member-colleges](https://uncf.org/member-colleges): Link to historically Black colleges and universities
- UCOP, [https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu](https://admission.universityofcalifornia.edu): Admission information about the University of California campuses
- CSU Mentor, [https://www2.calstate.edu](https://www2.calstate.edu): Admission information for the California State University system
- Colleges That Change Lives, [https://ctcl.org](http://www.ctcl.org): A nonprofit organization dedicated to the advancement and support of a student-centered college search process
- Day Tripper University, [https://daytripperuniversity.com](http://www.daytripperuniversity.com): Your guide to college tours

**STANDARDIZED TESTING WEBSITES**
- College Board, [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org): Provides information about the PSAT, SAT, and AP tests
- ACT, [www.act.org](http://www.act.org): Provides information about the ACT test

**FINANCIAL AID AND SCHOLARSHIPS**
- FAFSA, [https://studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov): This form is required by colleges for all students applying for financial aid
- CSS, [https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org](https://cssprofile.collegeboard.org): The CSS Profile is the form many private colleges and universities require
- Finaid, [https://finaid.org](https://finaid.org): A comprehensive website for the financial aid novice
- Student Aid, [https://studentaid.gov](https://studentaid.gov): U.S. Department of Education resources on financial aid
- Fastweb, [www.fastweb.com](http://www.fastweb.com): A database of more than 180,000 scholarships
- NASFAA, [www.nasfaa.org](http://www.nasfaa.org): Great website to help you learn financial terms
- The WashBoard, [https://washboard.wsac.wa.gov](https://washboard.wsac.wa.gov): College scholarship database for Washington students