

COLLEGE PREP CALENDAR FOR SOPHOMORES AND FRESHMEN

MONTH	SOPHOMORE GOALS	FRESHMEN GOALS	NOTES
September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend all programs and seminars such as College Nights, Career Fairs, Financial Aid, and Pre-AP/AP Parent Nights presented by your school’s guidance office. • Meet with all college admissions representatives that visit your school. Get their card and email them with questions or just to say, “Thank You,” for coming to your school. • Meet with your guidance counselor to review your courses for this year and plan your schedule for your junior year. Plan to take a fourth year of rigorous high school Pre-AP or AP math and science courses. Colleges are more interested in the courses you are taking your senior year than your GPA. • Register for the October PSAT through the counseling department in your high school. The PSAT is a preliminary test that will prepare you for the SAT Reasoning Test. • If you plan on taking the ACT, talk to your guidance counselor about taking the PLAN this fall. The PLAN is a preliminary standardized test that will give you some preparation for the ACT. PLAN does not have national testing dates, so ask your guidance counselor about test dates offered by your school. • Take NCAA-approved courses if you want to play sports in college. The Texas Recommended High School Graduation Program will cover all courses needed to satisfy the NCAA requirements. www.ncaaclearinghouse.net 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend all programs and seminars such as College Nights, Career Fairs, Financial Aid, and Pre-AP/AP Parent Nights presented by your school’s guidance office. • It is never too early to plan for the future! • Build strong academic, language, mathematics and critical thinking skills by taking challenging Pre-AP and AP courses. • Study hard and get excellent grades. • Strengthen your vocabulary by increasing your reading. • Become involved in co-curricular activities. • Meet your high school guidance counselor and discuss your plans for the next four years. • Browse through college literature or surf the Web to get an idea of what kinds of schools may be of interest to you. • Check out what high school courses colleges require. • Know NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) requirements if you want to play sports in college. The Texas Recommended High School Graduation Program will cover all courses needed to satisfy the NCAA requirements. www.ncaaclearinghouse.net • Keep an academic portfolio and co-curricular record. • Research career possibilities. • Begin saving money for college. 	
October	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take the PSAT for practice. The results will not be used for college admission. • Get involved. Sign up, if you have not done so already, for extra-curricular activities. Participate in student government, debate, theater, dance, band, athletics, etc. College admission officers will factor in these activities when evaluating your application. The level of involvement and accomplishment is most important, not the number of activities. Work toward earning leadership positions within these organizations. • Keep a record of your extra-curricular involvement, volunteer work, and employment (all year). Consider 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your semester grades now count for college so make earning excellent grades a priority. Attend tutorials, join study groups, keep an agenda, and ask your counselors, teachers, and parents to help you structure your time to allow for studying and fun. Time management is a life long skill and one that highly successful people seem to have mastered. • Tour colleges and universities during the fall and spring semesters. Consider using teacher in-service days so you are able to visit on a week day. Attend a class or two, sporting event, theater performance, or other events taking place on campus. Call in advance and schedule your tour to make the best use of your time. 	

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	<p>using a resume format. www.apstrategies.org/resourcecollege/#collegeprep</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tour colleges and universities during the fall and spring semesters. Consider using teacher in-service days so you are able to visit on a week day. Attend a class or two, sporting event, theater performance, or other events taking place on campus. Spend the night on campus if possible. Call in advance and schedule your tour to make the best use of your time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get involved. Sign up, if you have not done so already, for extra-curricular activities. Participate in student government, debate, theater, dance, band, athletics, etc. College admission officers will factor in these activities when evaluating your application. The level of involvement and accomplishment is most important, not the number of activities. 	
November	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make sure you are "on top" of your academic work. If necessary, meet with your teacher for additional help. • Save your best work in academic courses and the arts for your academic portfolio (all year). 		
December	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Receive results of PLAN and/or the PSAT. Read materials sent with your score report. Consult your guidance counselor to explore ways to improve on future standardized tests and courses to discuss which may be required or beneficial for your post-high school plans. 		
January	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep studying! • Volunteer-a great way to identify your interests and to develop skills. • Review Financial Aid websites such as studentaid.ed.gov and www.fafsa.ed.gov 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet with your guidance counselor to review your courses for this year and plan your schedule for your sophomore year. Plan to take a fourth year of rigorous high school Pre-AP or AP math and science courses. Colleges are more interested in the courses you are taking your senior year than your GPA. 	
February	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is never too early to start researching colleges and universities. Visit your guidance office to browse through literature and guidebooks or surf the Web and check out college and university home pages. 		
March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NACAC has developed a list of on-line resources to help you in the college admission process called Web Resources for the College-Bound. You can get the information online free at the NACAC Web site. www.nacacnet.org 		
April	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See your guidance counselor for advice. • Continue to research career options and consider possible college majors that will help you achieve 		

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	your career goals.		
May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan now for wise use of your summer. Consider participating in a summer enrichment program (e.g., for prospective engineers or journalists or for those interested in theatre or music) at a college/university. Consider working or volunteering for meaningful community service projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan now for wise use of your summer. Consider participating in a summer enrichment program (e.g., for prospective engineers or journalists or for those interested in theatre or music) at a college/university. Consider working or volunteering for meaningful community service projects. 	
June	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After school ends, get on the road to visit colleges. Seeing the college firsthand, taking a tour and talking to students can be the greatest help in deciding whether or not a school is right for you. Although it is ideal to visit colleges during the academic year, going in the summer will be valuable. Admission offices employ their students to give tours and answer questions from prospective students and their parents. Create a list of what you are looking for in a college/university so you will be happy for 4 to 5 years in that location. Do you want a large or small institution? Near a large city such as Dallas, Houston, Austin, or more rural area similar to College Station? Do you prefer a warm or cold climate—do you mind stomping through snow to get to class? Are you okay with dorm style living or do you need a campus with apartment style residences? What are the off campus living options? Do you want a school with “Greek Life,” or more club and organization oriented? What about sports- Division I, II, or III? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After school ends, get on the road to visit colleges. Seeing the college firsthand, taking a tour and talking to students can be the greatest help in deciding whether or not a school is right for you. Although it is ideal to visit colleges during the academic year, going in the summer will be valuable. Admission offices employ their students to give tours and answer questions from prospective students and their parents. 	
July	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to visit colleges, take tours, have interviews and ask questions. Make college visiting a family event. Involve your parents and siblings in every step of your application process. Choosing the right college is a tough decision; the opinions of those who know you best can provide helpful insight into which college is best for you. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to visit colleges, take tours, have interviews and ask questions. Make college visiting a family event. Involve your parents and siblings in every step of your application process. Choosing the right college is a tough decision; the opinions of those who know you best can provide helpful insight into which college is best for you. 	
August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make your summer productive. Continue reading to increase your vocabulary. 		